



SCHOOL COMMITTEE CANDIDATES MEET VOTERS

The Student Council at Mt. Everett High School hosted a forum where candidates for the School Committee for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District were able to speak and meet voters. The forum, part of a larger event called "Democrapoluzza," was held at Mt. Everett on Oct. 30.

For more on the candidates, see page 4.

"Students need to be more involved in school issues, in letting their voices be heard," said student body president Joe McSpiritt.

"How to be a good citizen is something that needs to be learned, it's not knowledge we're born with." McSpiritt's father, Charles, is a candidate from New Marlborough.

Democrapoluzza started off with a family spaghetti dinner in the school cafeteria, with proceeds being shared by the School Council and other school groups. During the dinner, questions could also be posted by voters on an "ask me a question" board for inclusion in the forum to follow. Activity then moved to the Consolati Performing Arts Center. Candidates for the School Committee were given a few minutes apiece to

say why they should be the ones elected on Nov. 4.

The evening wrapped up with speeches staged by students in favor of the Barack Obama/Joseph Biden ticket and the John McCain/Sarah Palin ticket, followed by a debate between Republican and Democratic students. In addition, a panel of high school students played "Stump the Social Studies Teachers" with Mt. Everett's four teachers.

SCHOOL DISTRICT COLLABORATION: NO CLEAR PATH SO FAR

The chairmen of the School Committees for the two school districts in southern Berkshire County agree that they favor cooperation and resource-sharing to reduce costs, but there's little sentiment for more substantive measures, such as sharing a superintendent.

At a meeting in Stockbridge on Sept. 24, Steve Bannon, chair of the School Committee for Berkshire Hills Regional School District (comprising the towns of Great Barrington, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge) and other committee

Continued on page 3

UPDATE ON THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE SHEFFIELD TIMES

As we noted in the May/June issue, the *Sheffield Times*, published by the Sheffield Association, has been taking steps to combat rising operating costs. We've switched to using bulk mail, and we've applied for our own nonprofit status (donations have been tax-deductible through a partnership with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation).

We continue to depend on volunteers and generous contributions from the community to keep going. And the community has been wonderfully responsive to our appeal to help us cover costs this year. Thank you! That leaves us \$4,000 to raise for this year. Plus we need to rebuild the small cash cushion accrued in earlier years of fundraising, which allows us to meet cash-flow needs, as at the end of the year when annual administrative and insurance bills come due.

Putting out one issue of the *Sheffield Times* costs around \$2,500. That includes direct costs such as printing and mailing

and overhead costs such as insurance. The ads in the *Sheffield Times* are priced at affordable rates, and they bring in around \$500 per issue. That leaves about \$2,000 per issue to come from other sources, or \$12,000 every year. That's less than \$6.50 for every household in town if all contribute—or \$30 per household if 400 contribute, or \$100 per household if 120 contribute.

That \$12,000 covers the six regular issues a year. We also publish special election issues that are mailed to all town residents. They cost around another \$3,000 apiece, for a total of \$15,000 we must raise every year.

The *Sheffield Times*'s end-of-year appeal will be mailed during November. Or you can use the donation coupon on page 31 to contribute at any time. Please be generous. We look forward to serving Sheffield for years to come. We can do it, but we need your help. —The Sheffield Association

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Sheffield TIMES

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of Sheffield and Ashley Falls

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Schumer, 13, 26; Historical Society, 28.

BOARDMAN WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Sheri Boardman, a SUNY Cobleskill student from Sheffield, has been awarded the National Dairy Shrine/Iager Dairy Scholarship for 2008. The \$1,000 national scholarship is awarded to only one dairy student in the US each year.

"Knowing that I am the only recipient of this national scholarship is pretty special," said Boardman.

The National Dairy Shrine/Iager Dairy Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding second-year associate's degree dairy student and is based on academic standing, leadership ability, interest in dairy and plans for the future.

Boardman is majoring in animal science with a concentration in dairy production and management. The daughter of Sandy and Rick Boardman, she helps on the family dairy farm in Canaan, CT., where 55 registered Holsteins are milked, 13 of which belong to Boardman.

Boardman is active in the campus community. She is serving as president

of the college's Dairy Cattle Club for the 2008-09 academic year and was named most valuable player on the SUNY Cobleskill women's softball team as starting pitcher in 2007.



Sheri Boardman received the National Dairy Shrine/Iager Dairy Scholarship.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUBMIT ARTICLES, NEWS ITEMS, PHOTOS OR ILLUSTRATIONS. Have an idea for a story? Taken a great picture of an interesting Sheffield scene? Have a new business venture? Let us know! Send suggestions and submissions to the P.O. box or e-mail address below. News briefs can be one or two sentences, short articles between 150 and 450 words. For feature stories, please run suggestions by the editors first.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR EVENTS. Calendar items should be directed to the attention of the Calendar Editor and include a contact name and number in case there are questions.

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**January/February
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DECEMBER 15**

ASHLEY FALLS HOLIDAY DILEMMA

Which is bigger, the population of Ashley Falls, or the number of lights on the tree on the Village Green at holiday time?

Ashley Falls has approximately 440 dwellings with about 1,200 residents.

The big tree is a 60-year-old Norway spruce approximately 85 feet tall and covered with thousands of twinkling crystal lights.

The entire under-18 years of age population of Ashley Falls can easily fit standing under the canopy and look up into limbs and the great illumination.

The tree itself is a natural beauty... fully-rounded, symmetrical, healthy and still growing! For one month a year we turn on the lights. Approaching Ashley Falls, the tree comes into view and everything is beautiful. As one walks around the village at dusk, one sees the

lights and how they sparkle and reflect on the windows of the houses around the village center. The ultimate best magical tree moments are in the quiet fresh snow, a few inches on the ground and more lightly falling.

Is it worth getting into the holiday spirit in August and begging for donations? Sure it is. The kids love the tree; they don't care how cold it is!

Coming together each year on the first Saturday in December is our biggest community event. No matter the weather, we get together (remember last year). Same as always, each \$5 contribution gets you one chance to flip the switch and be The Grand Illuminator 2008, to be chosen by secret paper ballot pulled

THE SHEFFIELD TOWN TREE

The 81st lighting of the Town Holiday Tree will be held on Sun., Dec. 7, at 6:30pm on the Town Green in the center of Sheffield. It will be followed by carol singing and an ecumenical service in Old Parish Church. All members of the community are invited.

The service will be led by area clergy and representatives of individual churches, an ecumenical choir will sing, and the Mt. Everett High School Band will play. There will be refreshments following the service in the Old Parish social room. Cookie donations are welcome - drop off at Old Parish Church between 6 & 6:30.

from the punch bowl by a beautiful woman. New this year: a bonfire!

Mark your calendars: Sat., Dec. 6! The Howden Haywagon rides begin at 3:30pm. Hot chocolate, cookies and caroling begin at 5pm.

—Richard Cherneff

SCHOOL DISTRICTS, continued from page 1

members said that they did not favor collaborating more closely.

That view is not so different from what Herbert Abelow, chair of the School Committee for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough and Sheffield) said in July at a meeting of the selectmen of the five towns in the district, although Abelow says that "all options for cooperation and consolidation should be open for consideration and negotiation."

It was announced at the Sept. 24 meeting of the Berkshire Hills School Committee that they will choose a replacement for the current superintendent, who is retiring at the end of this

school year, for a full three-year term. That would prevent the establishment of a "superintendency union," a cost-saving measure whereby two school districts share a superintendent and administrative staff, for at least three and half years. According to the Massachusetts Dept. of Education, there are currently 16 such unions in the state, involving 49 towns. The Lanesborough district in northern Berkshire County has recently entered such a union with Williamstown for their elementary schools.

Dissatisfied with the situation, each of the Boards of Selectmen of the eight towns in the two school districts sent one of their members to a meeting at the Mason Library in Great Barrington on Oct. 22.

The consensus of that meeting was that a superintendent's union was not feasible as long as the two school committees are opposed to it. (Under state law, school committees appoint superintendents.) Several speakers said that this should not be an obstacle to conducting a feasibility study of a merger or other ways to collaborate.

Sheffield Town Administrator Joe Kellogg said that he had talked to the Dept. of Education, which confirmed

that state funds were available to finance such a study. All school districts south of Pittsfield would be welcome to join an initiative to conduct the feasibility study.

Reducing the number of school districts is part of Gov. Deval Patrick's long-term plan for improving education in Massachusetts. That plan calls for increasing "the size while reducing the number of the Commonwealth's current school districts to streamline administration and management structures, which will expand opportunities to ensure strong oversight and leadership and improve teaching and learning." (The report can be found at www.mass.gov; search for "education readiness report.")

The Berkshire Hills School Committee's position could be somewhat at odds with the support expressed by voters of its three towns in their May town meetings for a non-binding resolution in favor of adding more towns to the district.

It's not clear what effect the upcoming election of the School Committee will have on the talks. Seven of the 13 candidates are on the current, appointed committee.

Julie Hannum, chair of the Sheffield Board of Selectmen, said she "doesn't see this as just a subject for selectboards and school committees." She wants "as many voices to be heard as possible."

—Peter Rowntree

MARKETPLACE EVENTS ON FRIDAYS

The Marketplace Café, on Elm Court off Route 7, has started holding special "Friday Night Events." On Nov. 7 at 7pm, guests are invited to eat traditional Caribbean food accompanied by the music of Bob Marley.

On Nov. 14 the café will serve a Harvest Dinner, with two sittings, at 7 and 8:30pm. The menu will feature classic New England food, for a fixed price. Reservations and tickets (\$25) are required (call 413-248-5040 x2).

Additional events are planned. The café has received permission for customers to bring their own beer or wine to imbibe on the premises and has applied for a "beer and malt" license.

PROFILES OF THE CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The School Committee has 10 members, with each town allotted the number of seats indicated. Voters from each town vote for candidates from all five towns. The candidates were each asked for a brief bio, a photo and statement of their vision. Those were distributed at the school's forum held Oct. 30 and elsewhere. The following are excerpts. Listed alphabetically by town and by candidate.

Alford—1 seat

Linda Silvestri



Retired elementary school teacher, a college grants administrator and bequests and charitable trusts manager. Has lived in Alford full-time for six years after spending summers there much of her life. On the School Committee since 2006.

"The District is facing ever-increasing energy and health-care costs, changing demographics, underfunded federal and state mandates, and the need for significant repairs to the primary school building. Despite these challenges, the School Committee will continue to advance the SBRSD excellent educational achievements."

Egremont—2 seats

Charles B. Flynn



Technology administrator for the Lee Public Schools after a career in the Navy. Resident of Egremont; former Egremont selectman. On School Committee since June 2008.

"We need to establish relationships with parents and the community and use data to identify strengths and weaknesses in curriculum and instructional practices, then develop strategies to expand the strengths and remediate weaknesses. We need to engage parents, the community/region, and the school in a partnership for learning."

Stephen P. Willig

Works at Mead Corp. Specialty Papers in South Lee. On board of directors of the Hurlbut Employees Federal Credit Union. Has lived in South Egremont since 1978. Currently on School Committee. Two of his children are graduates of Mt. Everett, one is now a sophomore there.

"The quality of the educational experience offered at the schools of SBRSD is among the best in the county, and I would venture to say among the best in the state. My vision is to continually find ways to improve the quality of education. We also need to foster an environment where the teachers and staff find job satisfaction and compensation sufficient to be able to live within a reasonable commuting distance."

Monterey—1 seat

Deborah D. Mielke

Real estate broker with Corashire Realty. A lifelong resident of the area, the past 32 years in Monterey. Beginning her fourth year on School Committee; served as the Committee's vice-chair last year; has served as the Committee's representative to the Eagle Fund. Two daughters are SBRSD alumna.

"I look forward to my continued participation on the School Board especially as the District faces some new, as well as old, challenges."

New Marlborough—2 seats

Herbert Abelow



Retired investment banker. Has worked with nonprofits and schools at the board level, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America, National Association for Learning Disabled, Rumsey Hall School, a mentoring program at Columbia, the Edith Wharton Restoration and the Lenox Library. Part-time resident since 1986, now in Mill River. Treasurer of the New Marlborough Village Association and the New Marlborough Historical Society. Currently chair of the School Committee.

"We must be able to think outside of the box, to maintain our most important mission—teach our children to the best of their ability to learn, as well as provide them with social skills to become proficient in whatever they wish to do as adults. We must husband our resources and work with the administration, faculty, and parents to ascertain how the district can best provide what our kids need. We must provide total transparency to all our constituents. We must have a comprehensive five-year plan so that we all will be able to evaluate whether or not our goals are being met. I will continue to work on the state level to encourage our legislature to reduce the regulatory abuse by state agencies and to demand coordination and streamlining of the state's accountability, assessment, and accreditation systems."

C. William (Bill) Dunsay



Retired teacher, working at SBRSD and New Marlborough Central School. Has lived in area since 1974. Has one daughter and four grandchildren, three of whom attend New Marlborough Central School.

"I recently attended a workshop for new and prospective members of Massachusetts school committees. I want to be sure that we have tight safety and security policies and that they are being followed throughout the district. I know that teachers deserve professional pay, and providing a well-rounded education for our children is important. As a teacher I know that real learning occurs from creative and spontaneous experiences for teachers and students. The challenge is to merge that with very fine standards set out by the state."

Charles McSpirtt



Works at Torrington High School in Torrington, CT, as athletic director, instructional supervisor for physical education and health, and assistant principal. Resident of Mill River since 1988. A daughter graduated from Mt. Everett and a son is a senior there. Participates in school-related community activities such as the Undermountain-Mt. Everett Youth Athletic Assoc. Saturday Soccer and Travel Team pro-

grams and the Mt. Everett soccer camp. On the School Committee for six years; chair for five years.

"The School Committee should communicate with school administration, parents, and faculty to help the SBRSD provide the resources that the students will need to participate fully and succeed in education, the arts and athletics. The School Committee should work with the school administration to provide the faculty and students with the supportive leadership and resources necessary to help students become productive members of our society."

Sheffield—4 seats

Andy Fetterhoff



A woodworker and information technology specialist. Has lived in the area since 2000 and now lives in Ashley Falls.

"I intend to make the district more financially accountable and to assure that the education it provides increasingly suits the needs of current and future student bodies. We will do well to keep in mind that every decision of the school committee impacts not only students and their education, but also parents, taxpayers, and, most importantly, the future of our community."

Catherine Miller

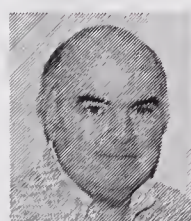


Retired college administrator and teacher of psychology at the State University of New York at Albany and Simon's Rock College. Involved for over 30 years at the board level with organizations including Community Health Programs, Berkshire Choral Festival, Berk-

shire Bank and Berkshire Bankcorp, Christ Church/Trinity Lutheran Church, Barrington Stage Company and Berkshire United Way. Founder of the Eagle Fund, an endowment for educational enrichment programs for the SBRSD. On the School Committee from 2005-2007. Has lived in Sheffield for 36 years.

"Our young people need to be educated for occupations and world conditions that we can not imagine. We all share in this responsibility, which requires an educational program involving parents and highly qualified, motivated teachers who reflect local values. Our small district faces many challenges, but at the same time our size offers opportunities that are not available in a larger system."

John (Jack) Pollitt



A business consultant for Goodyear Tire and Rubber and district manager for Penske Auto Centers and Monro Muffler Brake. Has lived in Sheffield for 20 years. On the School Committee for eight years; served as chair and vice-chair of the Finance Committee, chair of the Collective Bargaining Committee, member of the Warrant Committee, and chair of the Superintendent Search Committee.

"Southern Berkshire is blessed with some of the finest, most dedicated teachers and administrators in the commonwealth. Southern Berkshire is a top-performing organization striving to become the best in the state. The elements are in place. We just need to support and trust our professionals to get the job done. I am proud of the teacher's, administrators,

and committee members past and present that have made this a district to be proud of."

Scott Sanes



Trial lawyer. Member of the board of directors at the Option Institute and Fellowship and the Eagle Fund. A school council member at Undermountain. Has lived in Sheffield for 10 years. Has a daughter in the sixth grade at Undermountain Elementary School and a special needs son attending the Mt. Everett High School Life Skills Program.

"We have incredibly talented teachers and the facilities available to make SBRSD a shining example of public education throughout the Commonwealth. I am passionately committed to making certain that the district has the support and resources necessary so that our children can realize their academic potentials. As a trial attorney with 26 years of advocate experience, I wanted to volunteer my time and efforts to improving the education in our community."

H. Dennis Sears



Retired from a career in sales and marketing at IBM and as a consultant and entrepreneur in the technology field. Has lived in Sheffield for nine years after living in the area part-time for many years. Has worked with several area nonprofits, some at the officer level, including Christ Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheffield Historical Society and Sheffield Land Trust.

"The vision I had when I became involved in changing the selection of the School Committee members from appointive to elective has not changed: to make the School Committee a truly district-wide body that thinks and acts in the interest of students of the entire district; and that our five towns would come together as a united body to provide the desired educational opportunity to our children."

Vito Valentini



Retired middle-school math teacher. Has lived in Sheffield 13 years after several years part-time in the area. Two children, one at Undermountain Elementary, the other will enter pre-K next year. Member of New Marlborough Central and Undermountain Elementary school councils.

Volunteer tutor for advanced math students at Undermountain. Member of the Sheffield Parks and Recreation Commission.

"I will work to develop a spirit of cooperation and good feeling between the five member towns and to promote and enhance the positive image of our schools in our communities. I will make maintaining educational excellence and positive educational innovation a top priority. I will encourage increased communication between the schools, parents, and community. I will work to maintain good communication, cooperation, and support between the school committee and the professional staff. I will promote sound fiscal management. Finally, I will be an enthusiastic advocate for our schools with a reasonable common sense point of view."

**Produced as a community service by the Sheffield Times.
To support such community efforts, see page 31.**

KEN BROOKS, NATIVE SON AND SOLDIER

He's a young man with old eyes. He's completed two tours of duty in Iraq, a total of 26 months. He's only 28, but he's a captain and was given his own command when he returned at the end of August to Fort Stewart in Georgia. Meet Ken Brooks, US Army, son of Marilyn and the late Bernard Brooks of Park Lane, Sheffield.



Ken Brooks at home on leave.

Graduating with a degree in psychology from Westfield State College, Brooks has been in the military since he was 22. It shows in his bearing, in the way he walks, in the confidence he exudes. What led him to join up? "I was always interested in intelligence, in the gathering, analyzing and disseminating of data. I did an internship in Near East/South Asia studies in Washington, DC, and really enjoyed the work. And I realized that I wanted to make that work my career. I met all kinds of intelligent and fascinating people and the one thing they all had in common? They were or had been in the military. So I joined the Army."

Where he learned a lot. "The military taught me how to deal with people," he says. "You can't have just one regimented way of working with them. I learned when to stand firm, when to shut up and listen. I've become a very good listener and I've also learned how to communicate effectively."

Communicating effectively is how Brooks spends his days. He says that as an intelligence officer for his unit in Iraq, he had to speak competently. "I was the primary staff officer, which meant I coordinated, created and disseminated all the information I could about the enemy. I briefed commanders and high-level general officers, I maintained and controlled enemy personality dossiers, I sent out teams of men to gather information. We were always listening, always paying attention to what was being said and done, what was being reported, even casual conversations. In this business and especially in this war, human contact is vital to interpreting what the enemy is doing and why."

It may sound spy-movie adventurous, but the life of a soldier, says Brooks, is not exactly glamorous. Nor is it like living at home and having a 9 to 5 job. While most of us get to go home at the end of the workday, in Iraq, Ken merely got to go upstairs at the command post. He lived where he worked and he shared the quarters with seven other men. "We had shower trailers with water—sometimes—and we got hot meals twice a day, but the food sure wasn't like home cooking. We were cramped, the stress level is high, and we're on duty literally 24 hours a day."

When asked how he dealt with all this, he shrugs and says, "You just do. You can get away. You learn that you have to separate yourself from work when you get down time. You go to the gym, lift weights, get on the treadmill, meditate, talk to friends."

Knowing he was in Iraq, in a war, in danger at least part of the time, how did his family cope? "They worried," he says. "Of course, they did. My mother worries a lot. We talked on the phone. It's funny—my mother always wanted to know what I was doing, but you know, I didn't want to talk about that. I wanted to know what's going on at home." He also says he had the full support of his family and, he feels, of his community. "They care a lot. I've always gotten their support and it's the greatest morale booster for any soldier, that interest from home."

Asked to reflect on the best part of his choice to be a soldier, Brooks says, "I'm much more in command of myself now than I ever was and that is a positive thing. And I love my work; I'm good at it." The Army thinks so, too. Ken Brooks was awarded the Bronze Star for exceptionally meritorious service.

On the flip side, the worst part of being a soldier, he says, is missing both the day-to-day events of home and the more serious occasions. "You're not there to celebrate birthdays or anniversaries. You're also not there for the big things. My father died while I was away and my nephew was born. I got home as soon as I could, but it's not the same as being there when you need to be or want to be."

He speaks, too, of bravery, of life and death choices. He looks away when he recounts how a fellow soldier threw himself on a grenade. "He saved his comrades, but he died doing it."

When his Army stint is over, Brooks will continue his career in intelligence. Asked if he anticipates difficulties with his re-entrance to civilian status he says, "You have to have patience with people and with yourself. I hope that people will be grateful and supportive, that they'll shake my hand and offer me a cup of coffee."

That's not much to ask and yet it's everything.

—Pauline Clarke

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BERKSHIRE SCHOOL UNVEILS RESTORED ACADEMIC BUILDING

Berkshire Hall, the main academic building of Berkshire School and the centerpiece of campus, opened for business on Sept. 8 following a 15-month restoration.

Built in 1930, the building now features a dramatic lobby lit by a skylight, 21 spacious, sunny classrooms, a new addition housing administrative offices and, on the third floor, the "Great Room" for meetings and functions, with an adjacent outdoor terrace.

Berkshire Hall was formally dedicated on Sept. 27 at a ceremony attended by over 100 alumni and friends. Meanwhile, the school's new athletic center, including two hockey rinks, a fitness center, and training suites, is scheduled to open on Jan. 1.



Above: The exterior of Berkshire Hall was given a complete facelift. Landscaping for the front of the building was done by Tomich Landscape Design and Construction of Sheffield.



Clockwise from top left: Representing the town of Sheffield at the dedication ceremony were Selectmen Chairman Julie Hannum (center) and Building Inspector Tom Carmody (right), pictured with Assistant Head of School Bill Clough. Many of the classrooms feature floor to ceiling windows and big, oval Harkness tables, and all have Smart Board interactive whiteboards. The "Great Room" on the third floor was formerly the site of Berkshire Hall Theater. The Ellwood Bridge on the second floor connects the west and east wings of the building.



NEW FACE AT THE POST OFFICE

On Oct. 27, Kathy Cranson began her second year as a sales and services associate at the Sheffield Post Office. Since her employment one year ago, the post office has been at full staff.

Kathy works a 40-hour week, splitting her time equally between the Sheffield and Pittsfield post offices. She begins her day in Sheffield and ends it in Pittsfield. In the morning, she sorts the local mail into two groups, one for the boxes, the other for the mail carriers. The rest of her time is spent boxing the mail and working at one of the front windows. Because Sheffield's outgoing mail goes to Pittsfield before being sent to other locations, Kathy finds herself sorting mail in the afternoon that originated in Sheffield earlier that day.

Born in Holyoke, MA, Kathy moved to Pittsfield when she was seven. After graduating from Pittsfield High School, she attended Berkshire Community College for two years and then transferred to Salem State, where she graduated in 1987 with a major in accounting. She financed her own education both at BCC and Salem State. After graduation, she worked at Burger King in the office and as a store manager, working her way up after 20 years to office manager.

In 2004, Kathy decided to explore job options that would give her more interaction with people as well as better benefits. She took the postal exam for fun, learning only later that several

family members had worked in the postal system and they thought she would like the work. From 2005-2007 she worked as a postmaster relief in South Lee. When a 20-hour position opened in Sheffield, she applied for it. Sheffield's postmaster, Ellen Dripps, asked Pittsfield if they would hire Kathy for another 20 hours, and Kathy began working there in the winter of 2008.

Kathy lives in South Lee with her husband William Cranson, their two Pomeranian dogs, Furby and Kiara, and their calico cat, Sadie. On Sundays she teaches religion to first graders at the Sacred Heart Church on Elm St. in Pittsfield. She finds this "very rewarding." In her spare time, she does crafts, particularly paper quilling (curling strings of paper) which she then makes into flowers or other objects which she uses with poetry, photographs or other keepsakes, to make memory boxes for occasions happy and sad. She also uses the quilling to make jewelry, which she sells at craft fairs.

Kathy likes working at the Sheffield Post Office because "it's small and personable." She says, "I'm a people person and I like talking with the people who come in." —Ellen Rowntree



Kathy Cranson



Sheffield Historical Society

10th Annual Festival for the Holidays

The Old Stone Store,
Sheffield Town Green

Weekends in
November & December
Saturday 10-2 & Sunday 11-3

Free Admission

Miniature Trees, Local Crafts
Decorations, Ornaments
Holiday Treats, Gifts
Raffles & Tag Sale

Featuring an array
of homemade specialties

- Special hours on Black Friday
(November 28) from 11-4 •



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PASTEL - WATERCOLOR- OIL PAINTINGS

By

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MORNING AT THE SUNRISE DINER

The sign tacked to the creaky entranceway door couldn't be more true, "Beware of the attack waitresses." And attacked I was...into a happy pulp. After a bombardment of comfort, an onslaught of care and an entire artillery of friendliness, the Sunrise Diner has me forever. I raise my white napkin.

Inside this small country diner and beyond its retro mint green walls lies a larger-than-life, family-operated business that makes really good breakfast and really good friends, every day.

Owners Bill and Linda Wandell's recipe for success dates back over 38 years when Bill's sister, Joyce Bassett, purchased the diner from her father. Joyce sold the business to the Wandalls a decade ago, but she still works there as a waitress. "We are a family business, and we know that people have been coming here for most of their lives," said Linda. "We make sure everyone feels like family."

And true to their words, my breakfast one recent Friday morning couldn't have made me feel more at home.

Linda and Karen Dube, one of the diner's waitresses, sat with me at a square table, and I listened to stories, just like at my house, as I savored my perfectly runny, over-easy eggs with a never-ending cup of joe.

"When I started here I was so shy I could hardly even talk," said Karen, who has been working at the diner for 30 years, since she was 18.

"And now she can't stop," Linda said.

The two women began with stories back and forth. Linda joked about her husband, Bill, who when not cooking at the diner every waking hour, comes in on his day off to clean. "He is the chief cook and bottle washer, the jack of all trades, master of none," Linda said with a smile.

Linda continued with a story about a patron who didn't show up one day for his 9am paper and eggs. "When Joyce called concerned about his whereabouts, she found out he had passed away," said Linda. "And when you are with someone everyday, you care about their life."

Karen went on with her own stories about how she met two of her husbands at the diner and how the diner's "free meal" fund for hungry people in need started. "Some guy with no money came in who looked like he really needed to eat so we gave him food, and two people gave money for his meal," said Karen. "So we started putting money in a jar for people who can't afford to eat that day."

The stories kept pouring as did the coffee from our waitress and life of the diner, Joyce, who seems to always be carrying a coffee pot and wearing a smile.

Joyce insisted on the women telling me about a 5am breakfast club, consisting of 10 guys who meet at the diner every single day. As if they were her own children, Linda rattled off



The Sunrise Diner on Route 7 in Sheffield

their names: Ed, Mike, Chico, Joe, Dave, Chuck, Jim, Frank, Jim, and Luis.

"If you want to have fun and hear real stories, you have to be here at five o'clock in the morning," said Linda. "But don't be late, they don't like it when you are late."

Although I had missed the 5am breakfast experience, I luckily had arrived early enough to get a table. The diner was packed and lively by 8am.

While I sat and listened to my new friends and finished the last bite of my buttered rye, I looked around and noticed everyone was laughing, listening, and enjoying each other's company.

I quickly realized whether you are a part of the 5am breakfast club, a regular like Jean Deming, who said she has been coming to the diner so long she can't remember, or even a passerby like myself, this little Route 7 diner is more than just a provider of good breakfast food.

It is a place where stories are to be told, and family is to be made. Just don't get there late.

—Dan Jimmerson



Holiday Bake Sale

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MASTER CRAFTSMEN IN SHEFFIELD: SCHUTZES, FATHER AND SON

Two Erik Schutzes, father and son, live and work in Sheffield. Both are master cabinetmakers and furniture restorers. The father also sells antiques, and the son reproduces them, as well as constructing more modern pieces from scratch.

Woodworking skills run in the Schutzes' blood. Erik senior's father, Ferdinand, was a carpenter in Copenhagen. In 1908 he emigrated with his family to Flushing, Queens, where he opened a carpentry shop. Among his many accomplishments was his restoration of the Yale University Library. Ferdinand moved the family to the Berkshires in the late 1940s and started an antique repair and restoration business and taught his son the trade.

Erik senior has lived in Sheffield since the family moved here in 1950. He and his wife, Barbara, have what she calls a "mom and pop antique shop" on Rt. 7 just south of the Sheffield-Egremont Rd. The couple pride themselves on their ability to repair and refinish almost any antique made of wood, including such things as the side panels of old "woody" station wagons.

Erik senior used to build and sell furniture, much of it to his own design. He does this now mainly as a hobby. On display in the shop are some examples of his work using exotic wood and mother of pearl inlays.

Erik junior's business of building and restoring fine furniture, which he started around 1990, has taken off. Erik grew up in Sheffield and now lives with his family on Salisbury Rd. His cheerful wife, Debbie, is a receptionist at the Southern Berkshire Community Center. She knows almost everyone and is easy to identify by her big welcoming smile.

Erik junior spent more than 10 years working with his father before he opened his own business. While he still does repairs and restorations, his main focus now is on making furniture from the bottom up. Most of it is done to order rather than 'on spec.'

Erik is a man who clearly enjoys his craft. He loves working with his hands, with fine wood and with his customers and their architects and designers. He gets a real kick out of introducing new-



Eric Schutz, the younger, in his workshop

comers to the world of antiques as well as discussing them with experts. He can get carried away with excitement when he discusses one of his projects—whether it be restoring 15th- or 16th-century Italian cabinets, installing a home-entertainment center in a handsome antique armoire or constructing 24 tables and a maitre d' station for the Gramercy Tavern in New York City.

One of Erik's favorite and most important customers in is Edith Gilson, the owner of Cupboards and Roses on Rt. 7, which specializes in painted Scandinavian and other European antiques. The two have worked together for more than 15 years. "I couldn't have built this business without him," she said. "He is skilled, knowledgeable, experienced, responsible and a real pleasure to work with." He works with her on new designs and, most importantly, designs for custom made reproductions of things that are impossible to find, such as king-size Swedish Gustavian beds with details and proportions from the early 18th century.

Because she values his advice and because she wanted to introduce him to his Scandinavian origins, she asked him to accompany her on two buying trips to Denmark, Sweden, Austria and Germany. "He is a wonderful traveling companion," she said.

Fine woods, like expert artisans, are getting hard to find. Erik is constantly on the lookout for old houses and barns that are being demolished—they can be treasure troves of old boards, paneling, doors, beams and other wood. In fact, the

reason he bought his house on Salisbury Rd.—it was the old Foley house, moved from down the road—was not to live in it but to use its fine old floorboards to make elegant rustic tables, one of his best-selling items. Only later on did he decide to move in.

Another prime source of wood is Berkshire Products, a well-known regional supplier conveniently located on Route 7A in Sheffield. Owned by Al Zabłonski, Erik's woodworking teacher in high school (who says that Erik is now a far better cabinetmaker than he ever was), the company stocks more than 70 varieties of wood including ebony, zebra, snake, teak and other exotic woods from Latin America, Africa and beyond. Berkshire Veneers in Egremont supplies Erik veneers vital for the cabinetmaker's trade.

The Internet has had a big and favorable impact on Erik junior's business. It enabled him to shut down his showroom in Great Barrington. He uses it to find new ideas for designs and to exchange drawings or photographs of designs and works in progress with customers and potential customers. Most of his new clientele comes to him through referrals by architects, designers, antique dealers and satisfied customers. Several families have handed him down to younger generations as a favorite furniture maker and restorer.

While their businesses are separate, father and son often consult and help each other out—for example, by serving as a sounding board for ideas or lending a hand when one of them is having difficulty meeting deadlines. Following the family tradition, Erik junior's children, Erika and Christian, help him with his projects.

The Schutzes' trade demands precision, meticulous attention to detail, just the right tools and raw materials, great skill and experience, a liking for working with their hands and, above all, a love for wood and furniture both old and new. A Schutz motto might paraphrase Ratty in Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*: "There is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about with wood."

—Peter Rowntree

INGERSOLL RADIO SHOW CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR

October 12 marked the first anniversary of Tom Ingersoll's talk show "New Leaf" on WBCR-LP, a non-commercial community radio station based in Great Barrington. New Leaf focuses on ecological and environmental subjects, ranging from gardening and wildlife to climate change and geology.

The show has featured various Sheffield residents including Frank Lowenstein, Kerry Douglas, Dominic Palumbo, and the Sheffield Farmer's Market. Tom is a lifelong Sheffield resident, certified arborist and principal of Webster Ingersoll, Inc.

"New Leaf" airs every Sunday from 10:00-10:30am at 97.7FM. You can also stream the show live from WBCR's website, www.berkshireradio.org.

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SOCCKER TEAM WINS TOURNEY

The Undermountain Elementary Under-12 boys' team was champion of the Columbus Day weekend "Just for Kicks" tournament in Dalton played against Berkshire Hills, Lenox, Adams and Pittsfield Soccer Club Barcelona. First row: Asst. Coach David Collopy, Gavin Ziegler, Sam Hess, Jacob Malicky, Alexander Valentini, Chris Whitbeck, Dan Driscoll, Nick Tomich, Cooper Ronan, Coach Chris Tomich. Second row: Kosta Casivant, Mark Driscoll, Vaughn Collopy, David Ibanez, Bradley Lupiani, Rawson Clough, Trevor Turner. Not able to play: Adam Derwtisch, Anthony Consolini, David Funk. Not shown: Adam Dertwitsch, David Funk, Anthony Consolini, Matthew Moorehouse.



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The Sheffield Historical Society



**COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND TRANSMITTING
SHEFFIELD'S HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE**

The 1774 **Dan Raymond House Museum** offers tours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm (May-Oct.)

Come explore the daily lives of common people from the Revolutionary generation onward, including the intriguing history of the Sheffield Tory for whom the house is named.

The **Mark Dewey Research Center** houses the town's early archives, including tax & real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open year round, Monday & Friday 1:30-4 pm and by appointment.

Email: mdrc@sheffieldhistory.org

The **1834 Old Stone Store** located on the town green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space. Open weekends, Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm & Sunday, 11 am to 3 pm (April-Dec.)

159 Main Street | PO Box 747 | Sheffield, MA 01257
413.229.2694 | shs@sheffieldhistory.org
WWW.SHEFFIELDHISTORY.ORG

CHURCH NEWS

Christ Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran

The congregations thank the community for the support we received at our recent silent auction, quilt raffle and autumn lunch.

Bake sale. The Holiday Bake Sale is scheduled for Dec. 14, 10am-2pm. Delicious handmade cookies, cakes, jams, jellies, candies, fruitcakes and other treats will be available for your holiday table or to purchase as gifts.

Holiday services. Thanksgiving Day Service will be at 10am on Thurs., Nov. 27, followed by homemade cinnamon rolls at the Rectory.

The annual Children's Christmas Pageant will be on Sun., Dec. 21, at the 10am service. Any children in the community who wish to participate (as angels, sheep, wise men) are welcome. Rehearsals will begin after Thanksgiving. Please phone the church office at 229-8811 for information.

Christmas Eve services will be at 5pm (Family Service) and 10pm (Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion).

Our Lady Of The Valley

New pastor welcomed. Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Church welcomed the Rev. Henry Movalczyk as parish administrator on Oct. 1. Father Movalczyk is a native of Poland and previously served in Indian Orchard, near Springfield, MA.

At the same time they said farewell to the Rev. John Lis, who was transferred to Our Lady of the Hills Church in Haydenville, MA. Father Lis had been Pastor of Our Lady of the Valley for eight years and was very well liked by the Sheffield community.

The Sheffield Times will publish an interview with Father Movalczyk in its next issue.

Food Program

The Food Program continues to have wonderful support from the churches, community, and various groups in town. Here's an example: On Oct. 26, the Kiwanis held its first "Can Walk" to collect cans and other non-perishables for the pantry. Some 35 people made this 3½-mile walk led by the Aktion Club, a new group allied with Kiwanis, and it brought in boxes and bags of food for the Food Program. Pat Hardisty, Kiwanis president and organizer of the walk, presented not only food but checks and cash to help South County residents through the winter. Kiwanis will also be supplying the turkeys, potatoes and onions for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Good friends and neighbors.

The Farm Girl Farm membership ends with the growing season, and we will miss the fresh, quality produce from their fields. We have been receiving apples, tomatoes, squash and other food from individual gardens, as well.

If you wish to donate to the program, drop off grocery items at the barrel in the lobby of the Berkshire Bank branch in Sheffield during business hours. Checks may be written to Old Parish Church (write "Sheffield Food Assistance Program"

on the menu line), PO Box 387, Sheffield, MA 01257.

On the Food Program's fall wish list: paper goods, soup, peanut butter and jelly.

Sheffield Chapel

New pastor voted in. Corey J. McLaughlin, his wife, Erica, and their two children (2 years and 7 months) are excited to serve the people of Berkshire County. Corey grew up in Maine and came to the Berkshires to attend the Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies in Lenox, a one-year Bible certificate program. He then traveled to Amish country to finish his bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry at Lancaster Bible College. A week after graduating, he was married to Erica, who grew up in Lenox. The next four years were spent at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary pursuing a graduate degree in New Testament Studies. Pastor Corey is currently finishing off a second degree, a masters of theology, and will soon be pursuing a doctorate in counseling as well as earning his license as a marriage and family therapist.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist), 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Betty LeGeyt, Pastor

NORTH EGREMONT

North Egremont Baptist, Egremont Plain Rd. (Rt. 71) 528-6066. Sunday: 10am Worship; Monday: 6pm Bible Study. Rev. Stephen Vannah, Pastor

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of S. Berkshire. Meets at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main St. 528-4850; home 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm service. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Old Parish (Congregational), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 10am Worship, Sunday School, 10am. Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic), Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Father Henry Movalczyk

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational), 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, www.sheffieldchapel.org. Sunday: 10:45am Morning Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wednesdays: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Corey McLaughlin.

THE TOWN OF SHEFFIELD STRIKES GOLD ON SILVER STREET

Just one year ago, Mass Audubon opened the Lime Kiln Farm Wildlife Sanctuary on Silver St. and gave Sheffield a priceless addition. The sanctuary, which comprises some 247 acres, offers visitors a variety of habitats, birds, butterflies, flowers, and spectacular views of Mt. Everett and the Taconic Ridge.

Originally called the Mount Everett Wildlife Sanctuary, most of the land was given to Mass Audubon in 1990 by local resident Edna Scheinhart, who had owned it since 1963. Together with her friend Dorothy Garfein and their teacher and mentor Professor Marguerite D. Darkow, they decided to conserve this unusual and beautiful property and donate it to an organization that would preserve and care for it. They retained a house and a small parcel on Silver St. for their use until all three women were deceased.

Garfein died in 2004, and Mass Audubon received use of the final five acres that hold the only access to the property. The house was removed, as the women had requested. Mass Audubon then blazed a network of trails and built a parking area with an information panel so that the public would be able to hike, stroll, snowshoe and ski on the land.

In mid-September, the first hints of red and yellow were appearing on the trees. Just past the parking area, in a large expanse of meadow, a crab apple tree was laden with red fruit and the sides of the trail crowded with several varieties of goldenrod. Chicory and New England asters added blue and purple hues, with just-faded joe pie weed and Queen Anne's Lace in abundance. White boneset and woodland asters dot the landscape and the milkweed, which hosts the Monarch and other butterflies, has just begun to burst its pods and release its seeds on airy silken threads. Over several years, more than 53 species of butterflies have been identified on this preserve, with 25 species being seen at one time. One of them is the tawny emperor, a species rarely seen in Massachusetts, thanks to a small stand of hackberry trees, extremely uncommon in the state.

The first turnoff leads to the Lime Kiln Loop, a three-quarter mile trail that goes through a hayfield and woodland to the towering cement remnant of the old lime kiln that gives its name to the property. From 1909 to 1912, the Massachusetts Lime Co. quarried marble and limestone, crushed them, then fired and processed them into lime. Much of the Berkshire forest was cut down to make charcoal to fire the lime kilns that abounded in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The lime, which gives the area its "sweet" alkaline soil and accounts for the uniqueness of the plants and animals in our area, was used for fertilizer, mortar, plaster and had other manufacturing uses.

The meadows on the land are cut several times a summer through a trade arrangement with a local farmer. The farmer, Richard LeGeyt, gets the hay, and the sanctuary is able to keep the grasslands from reverting to forest. The meadows are nesting areas for many species of birds, butterflies, and insects. The grass isn't cut until after July 15 to let the bobolinks fledge and



The view at Lime Kiln Farm Wildlife Sanctuary on Silver Street.

are able to fly off when they hear the tractor. The Mass Audubon bird census has counted 105 species over the years, including alder flycatchers, red shouldered hawks, rough grouse, woodcocks, barred owls and warblers.

Beyond the Lime Kiln Loop, the Quarry Trail leads through woodlands and becomes the Taconic Vista Trail. All the trails are marked with blue blazes to show the direction away from

the parking area and yellow blazes the way toward it.

The Boulder Spur is a short walk to the edge of a field and a large glacial erratic, a rock or boulder that was transported to that spot and then dropped by a glacier during the last ice age. It has yet to be determined where the boulder originated. The Scenic Vista spur offers a breathtaking view of the Taconic Ridge in the distance. The Ovenbird Trail passes through a mixed woodland that includes many deciduous and evergreen species.

Two areas of the sanctuary are not accessible to the public at this time—the Barnum St. Swamp and 28 noncontiguous acres. Rene Laubach, the director of Mass Audubon's Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, which is headquartered in Lenox, said that these might be included in the trail system in the future, perhaps with a boardwalk through the wetlands.

The trails and parking area are supervised by Sheffield resident Andy Petersen (see *Sheffield Times*, July/August 2008). He patrols, mows and plows and maintains the trails. Sheffield residents can use the sanctuary for free. Nonresidents are asked to place a small fee in a box near the trailhead. Free maps are now available at the trailhead, and more information can be found at www.massaudubon.org.

At the northwest part of the Lime Kiln Loop, there are three stone cairns at the edge of an open field. These stones top the ashes of Dorothy, Edna, and Marguerite, the women whose foresight and generosity led to the preservation of this land. They were, according to the Mass Audubon, "able stewards of the land" and the sanctuary is "a living testament to their conservation ethic." We in Sheffield are truly enriched by this gift.

—Judith Schumer

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IT'S A MYSTERY: WHY SHEFFIELD WAS NAMED SHEFFIELD

Sheffield, proudly celebrating its 275th anniversary this year, is the oldest town in Berkshire County, being incorporated in 1733. The origins of the settlement date back to 1722 when two groups of Hampshire County men, eager to become landowners and voters, petitioned the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay for land along the Housatonic River. Governor Shute signed this grant on June 30, 1722, title to the land having been purchased from Chief Konkapot and other Stockbridge Indians for "Four Hundred and Sixty Pounds Three Barrels of Sider & thirty quarts of rum."

Prospective settlers could then petition the court-appointed committee for land ownership. On March 19, 1723, the petitions of 55 settlers were accepted for an area that included the present towns of Sheffield, Great Barrington, Egremont, Mount Washington, and much of Alford, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge and Lee.

The first white settler was Matthew Noble of Westfield who wintered over in 1725-6, went back to Westfield to report and was accompanied on his return in June by his hardy 16-year-old daughter, Hannah. (Noble's father had emigrated from England, becoming one of the early settlers of Springfield and later moving to Westfield.) The area was then known as the Upper and Lower Housatonic townships, the Indian name of the area being Housatonnic, meaning "over the mountain."

After making a survey, a committee consisting of Capt. John Ashley, Ebenezer Pomeroy and Thomas Ingersoll set about to promote the settlement of the new town by selecting persons who would become permanent residents. Home lots were drawn in three divisions, and the town was incorporated in 1733, six years earlier than any other town in the county. The new town was named Sheffield.

But no one knows why.

Several theories have emerged over the years. One theory is that the town was named after an earl or duke of Sheffield. In response to a recent article in the Sheffield Times, Esther Kininmonth, proprietor of the Berkshire Book Co., sent a copy of a letter written by local historian, Lillian Preiss, in 1995. It

says that "the town was named by the governor in honor of his friend, Edmund Sheffield, one of the Dukes of Buckingham. It is probable that the family name was derived from Sheffield, England, that is, the field on the River Sheaf."

A gazetteer by the Rev. Elias Nason dated 1876, available at the Mark Dewey Research Center of the Sheffield Historical Society, corroborates this and states that "Sheffield (was) so named from Sheffield, England, or from Edmund Sheffield, Duke of Buckinghamshire..."

However, there's a problem with this theory. Edmund Sheffield, second duke of the County of Buckingham and of Normanby, lived only from 1715-1735, dying at the age of 19. So it's unlikely he could have been a friend of William Belcher, the colonial governor from 1730-1741.

A second theory, as a recent article in the Sheffield Times noted, is that the town was not named after an earl or duke of Sheffield but "by early settlers who wanted to curry favor with the colonial governor, who hailed from Sheffield" in England. However, there's a problem with this theory also: Colonial governor William Belcher was not from Sheffield, England, but was born in Boston. He came from an old New England family, his grandfather, Edward, having arrived in the 1630s, and not known to have hailed from Sheffield, England.

Another theory is held by local historian James K. Miller. In his book *Early Life in Sheffield*, Miller writes that "Sheffield is probably named for Sheffield, England, but this is not known for certain... This theory is substantiated by the relative proximity in England of Sheffield, Stockbridge and Barrington. Locally, before their separation, Stockbridge and Great Barrington (and others) were parts of the town of Sheffield." Miller also states that "the settlers of Sheffield, Massachusetts, came from three ethnic groups that arrived at different times, from different places and in vastly different numbers. Except for native American Indians, the first residents were small numbers of Europeans from the Hudson River Valley of New York State who came late in the fourth quarter of the 17th century. The largest and dominant group, however, was from Westfield, Massachusetts, beginning in the 1720s."

Corroborating this theory, a gazetteer of Massachusetts, dated 1846, and written by John Hayward, states that Sheffield "was first settled in 1725 and, at its incorporation in 1733, was named after a town in England."

Personally, as someone who spent much of my childhood in Sheffield, England and also in the neighboring town of Stockbridge, I find this the most appealing theory. Coming to the Berkshires 10 years ago, I felt an immediate sense of recognition. The lush green landscape is similar to that of southern Yorkshire (though warmer!) and to the early 18th century settlers the rich Housatonic River valley would have seemed like the perfect place to carve out a life, to build the sturdy stone walls reminiscent of home and to create, in the New World, an idealized Sheffield, named for the distant ancestral home, an ocean and 3,000 miles away.

—Dr. Gillian Hettinger



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FORUM ON THE ECONOMY OF SLAVERY

Have you always thought that slavery was an economic fact in the "deep south" but not in the north? Have you believed that New England was more involved with the abolitionist movement than in owning slaves? Or that Sheffield is special because of Mum Bett?

These questions were addressed at a forum, "Traces of the Trade: Massachusetts and the Economy of Slavery," on Oct. 4 attended by some 35 people. The afternoon included a tour of the Ashley House, a viewing of a movie, "Traces of the Trade," and a discussion focused on the economic significance of slavery in the "deep north" of New England.

The movie chronicled the experiences and insights of 10 descendants of the DeWolf family of Bristol, RI, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. The family's wealth and power were the direct result of the slave trade and the slavery

that lasted long after the importation of Africans was illegal. Churches, whole communities, workers, home owners, all profited from it. As we watched the movie and listened to the historians at the Ashley House, we had to confront the reality that the economy of most of New England was dependent on slavery.

Among the New Englanders who benefited was Col. John Ashley, whose five enslaved men and women contributed to his wealth and importance. Without them, he could not have farmed his large tract of land nor managed his large household. With them, he was able to become a man of money and power.

The discussion following the movie dealt with questions such as how we interpret history, how we educate our children about our early history, how we deal with the guilt and shame of our ancestors' actions and how we deal

with racism in our world today.

The event, sponsored by Mass Humanities in partnership with the Sheffield Historical Society, The Trustees of Reservations and the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail, challenged all who attended. Keep your eyes open for additional screenings of this worthwhile documentary film.

—Marilyn Wightman

FAIR TRADE HOLIDAY SALE AT GOULD FARM

On Nov. 28 and 29, the weekend after Thanksgiving, Gould Farm and the United Church of Christ (Old Parish Church) will offer a way to shop while giving back to others. From 10am-6pm, the Farm will be hosting a SERRV sale in its new post-and-beam Harvest Barn, home of the newly opened Café, serving baked goods and coffees. SERRV is a non-profit, fair-trade organization that gives back every penny to its artisans. You can see the range of wonderful handcrafted items available at www.serrv.org. Much of this selection will on sale at the Harvest Barn. For directions to the Farm and for more information on its work, go to www.gouldfarm.org.

DEWEY HALL CONCERTS

Upcoming in the Dewey Hall Folk Series:

- Sat. Nov. 1: "An Evening with Doreen and Diane—Heavenly Influenced Songs."
- Sat. Dec. 7: "An Evening of Original Pop with Sammy Brown."

Both concerts will take place at 8pm at Dewey Memorial Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield. For more information, call 822-1602. The suggested donation is \$10. Refreshments will be served.

BENEFIT FOR SHEFFIELD'S GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

The Wood's Tea Company, a popular Vermont-based acoustic group, will perform on Sun., Nov. 9, 2-4pm, at Old Parish Church in a benefit to support the Sheffield Good Samaritan Fund. Instead of a set admission charge, a freewill offering will be received. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

The group plays Celtic tunes, sea shanties, Americana and bluegrass. They use as many as a dozen different instruments including stand-up bass, banjos, bouzoukis, bodhrans, guitars, ukulele, hammered dulcimer, penny whistle, flute and feet.

The Good Samaritan Fund is sponsored by the Old Parish, Christ Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran, Ashley Falls Methodist, Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic and Greenwoods Community churches. It serves people of our community in financial distress. According to Richard Magenis, the fund's current director, grants are limited to \$500 or less and typically help families meet emergency food, heating oil and utility costs. "Given the current energy crisis and weak economy," he notes, "our services will be needed more than ever this winter."

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SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION: FAIR AND STEAK ROAST WET BUT HAPPY

Rain and the threat of rain didn't daunt those who attended at the Town Park. Kristin Wolfe and her friend share an umbrella with her goat, above right. Below left: The Kiwanis Steak Roast filled the pavilion which the Fire Dept had shielded from the rain with plastic. Right: Vendors showing their wares included Sheffield's Barnum Hill Farm Pottery. Opposite page, clockwise: This year's Fair highlighted Sheffield's agricultural heritage; farmers Bruce

Howden (left), David Prouty (right) and Sarah Hudson with Morven Allen and his Jersey cow. Activities included pressing cider and the Scout's climbing wall. Groups with booths included the Sheffield Assoc. thanking Celebration supporters; and the Town with information on voting, town boards and more. State Representative "Smitty" Pignatelli presents a citation from the State to honor Wray Gunn who received a lifetime achievement award from Kiwanis.



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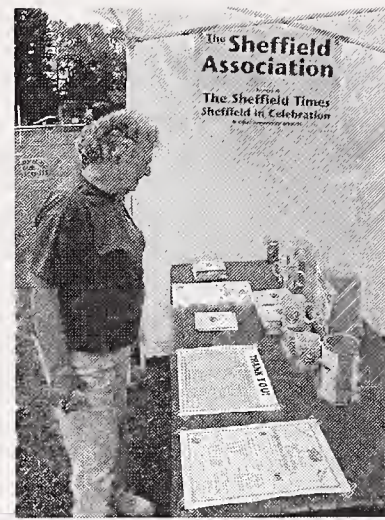
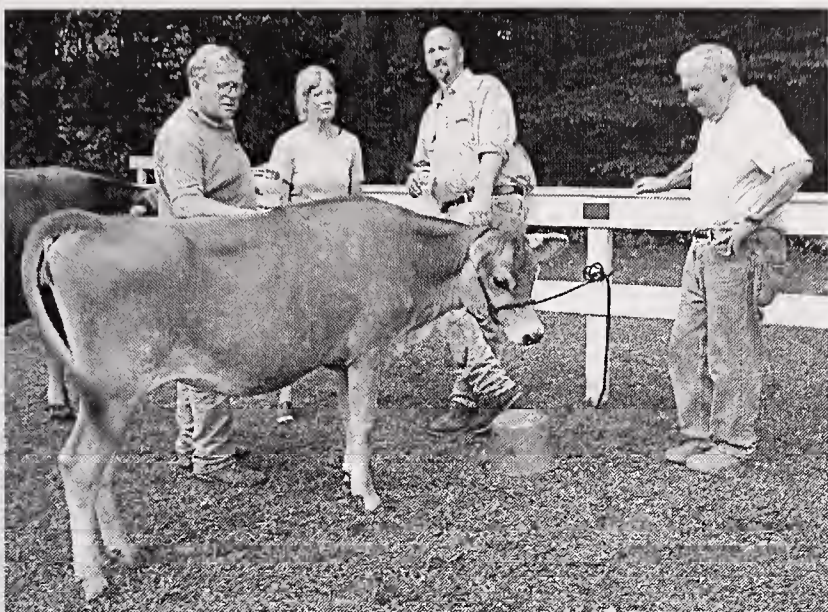
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- ☐ Schedule a tour of the Cottages or Cobble Suites
- ☐ Fill out and return a Cottage application with no entry fee or application fee to pay
- ☐ Get a list of the perks

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To our Corporate Sponsors **Salisbury Bank & Trust, Co.**, **Sheffield Plastics** and **Sheffield Pottery** and to everyone who helped make *Sheffield in Celebration* possible—donors, vendors and volunteers, including:

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 Dave Smith
 Thomas and Kathleen Tetro
 Tri-State Mopar
 Webster-Ingersoll
 Joe Wilkinson and Sons Excavating
 Wolfe Springs Farm and the Wolfe family
 Undermountain Elementary School
 Undermountain Joiners & Jim Law, Jr.
 Elizabeth Yoakum
... and everyone who attended!

RECOMMENDED READING

The Unfolding History of the Berkshires by David J. McLaughlin (Pentacle Press, 2007).

David McLaughlin's imaginative, visually stunning and accessible history is a treat to those who love the Berkshires: year-around and part-time residents, summer visitors and guests. It contains 10 complete foldout time lines covering almost 400 years of history, from the days of the Mohicans to the opening of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail and the reopening of the Mahaiwe and Colonial theaters. Each foldout contains 25 to 30 important events in the era described. There are over 150 images, many in full color, thumbnail biographies of key players of the times and interesting facts and stories that bring the history alive.

Thumbing through its 92 pages with an eye to its treatment of Sheffield, I found a description of our beginnings

in 1733; the John Ashley House, from 1733 our oldest surviving house, and Old Parish Church, the oldest surviving church building in the county, from 1760. Other early entries are the familiar stories of Mumbet, the Sheffield Declaration and Shay's Rebellion, all occurring in the 18th century. In the 19th century there is mention of the Old Stone Store; in the 20th, the designation of Bartholomew's Cobble as a Natural National Landmark in 1971 and the establishment of the Berkshire Choral Festival in 1982. What makes the book particularly accessible is that McLaughlin's time line also includes national and world events. Thus we see ourselves in the light of the events that have shaped our time.

The beginning and concluding sections of the book also include early and contemporary 3D maps, graphically displaying the mountains, rivers and valleys

that define our home. Finally, for those who wish to further explore the Berkshires, there is a listing of other resources: travel guides and maps, visitors' centers, books, libraries and historical societies.

In his introduction, McLaughlin quotes the well-known historian David McCullough: "No harm's done to history by making it something someone would want to read." In the eye of this reviewer, he has succeeded. —John G. Wightman

Vision Junkie: Essays and Other Writings From the Parallel World of the Legally Blind by Seymour "Rob" Robins (self published, 2005).

After a long career as a graphic designer—the Sheffield Historical Society is presenting a show of his paper sculptures at the Old Stone Store through Nov. 2—Seymour "Rob" Robins lost his vision in the 1990s to macular degeneration. *Vision Junkie* is Rob's report from the parallel world of the legally blind.



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Rob shares his obsessions and discoveries as he ventures forth into a dimming world. In his lifetime he has worn many hats. Corporate communicator. Inventor. Packaging guru. He was a master of puzzles, mazes, spheres and masks. He lived by his eyes and crafted objects with his hands. As a theorist of perception, Rob created experiments at Dartmouth and Princeton.

What could he do but direct his powers of insight to his present circumstances? The result is an exploration of his outer inner limits. Rob sees colors and even snowflakes when he least expects it and perhaps has hallucinations. As his vision fails, his other senses seem enhanced. The first part of his book is a technical explanation, the second part a collection of vignettes, anecdotes, humor and useful information. Rob muses on arranging his dinner plate, airplane travel and "watching" old movies. When asked if he might want "eyes like an eagle," he replies, "Not if I have to change my diet to rodents." This is a wonderful book by a young 95-year-old who will surprise you with his wit, wisdom, and insight.

—Fred Gordon

NEW ACQUISITIONS

The Library now has a reorganized and expanded collection of gardening and landscape books, thanks to volunteer assistant Jacquelyn Connell, a nationally certified landscape specialist. Look for this special selection on the second floor, just around the corner from a superb collection of cookbooks.

On the main floor, you can find the latest fiction and nonfiction offerings. Several recent additions include: *Lilies* by John Fiala; *Four Letter Words* by Michelle Arnot; *Touch and Go* by Studs Terkel; *The Senator's Wife* by Sue Miller; *Lush Life* by Richard Price; *A Prisoner of Birth* by Jeffrey Archer; and *Books* by Larry McMurtry.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The Bushnell-Sage Library offers several programs designed to let kids enjoy the library and all it has to offer. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal.

Half-day programs. On days when Undermountain Elementary has half-day session, the Library offers a program for children K through 4 from 11:45am to 3pm. There's room for about 30 kids. Reading, music, crafts and table games (checkers, chess, etc.) are enjoyed. At the last program, the group was treated to a visit by a pet llama.

Toddler program. On Thursday mornings, toddlers and their families play and enjoy books.

Homework help sessions. On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3 to 4:30pm, older children are welcome to explore reading interests or get help with homework.

Chess sessions. Also on Thursday afternoons, children interested in learning to play chess or improve their game get together. Other games are also available. The kids who have been coming range in age from 6 to 13.

—Jessica Roseman

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TOWN CLERK: ELECTION & MORE

Election Day. Polls will be open at Town Hall on Tues. Nov. 4, from 7am-8pm for the presidential election. Voting will take place on the second floor. If you need assistance at Town Hall we do have a wheelchair available. The Senior Center

will provide transportation to the polls between 9am and 2pm. by calling 229-7022 to make arrangements.

If you have any questions about the elections or your status as a voter, contact the clerk's office during regular business hours at 229-7000, ext. 151.

Dog licenses. Licenses are renewable each spring. If your dog is six months or older and you live

TAX COLLECTOR

Preliminary quarterly real-estate and personal property tax bills have been mailed out and are due on Nov. 1. The actual tax bills will be mailed in mid-December, due on Feb. 1.

in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year, a license is required. After May 1, a delinquent fee of \$25 per dog will be added to your license fee. (This does not apply to new licenses).

For spayed or neutered dogs, the cost is \$5. If your dog is intact, the fee is \$10. By mail: Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, a check made payable to the Town of Sheffield and proof of rabies to: Town Clerk, PO Box 175, Sheffield, MA

01257. You can of course also apply in person.

Sporting licenses. Hunting and fishing licenses for 2008 can be obtained during regular business hours year round. For further information, contact the Town Clerk's office, or visit the Town Clerk's page on the town website (www.sheffield.ma.gov) follow the link to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Sheffield is located in wildlife management zone 3.

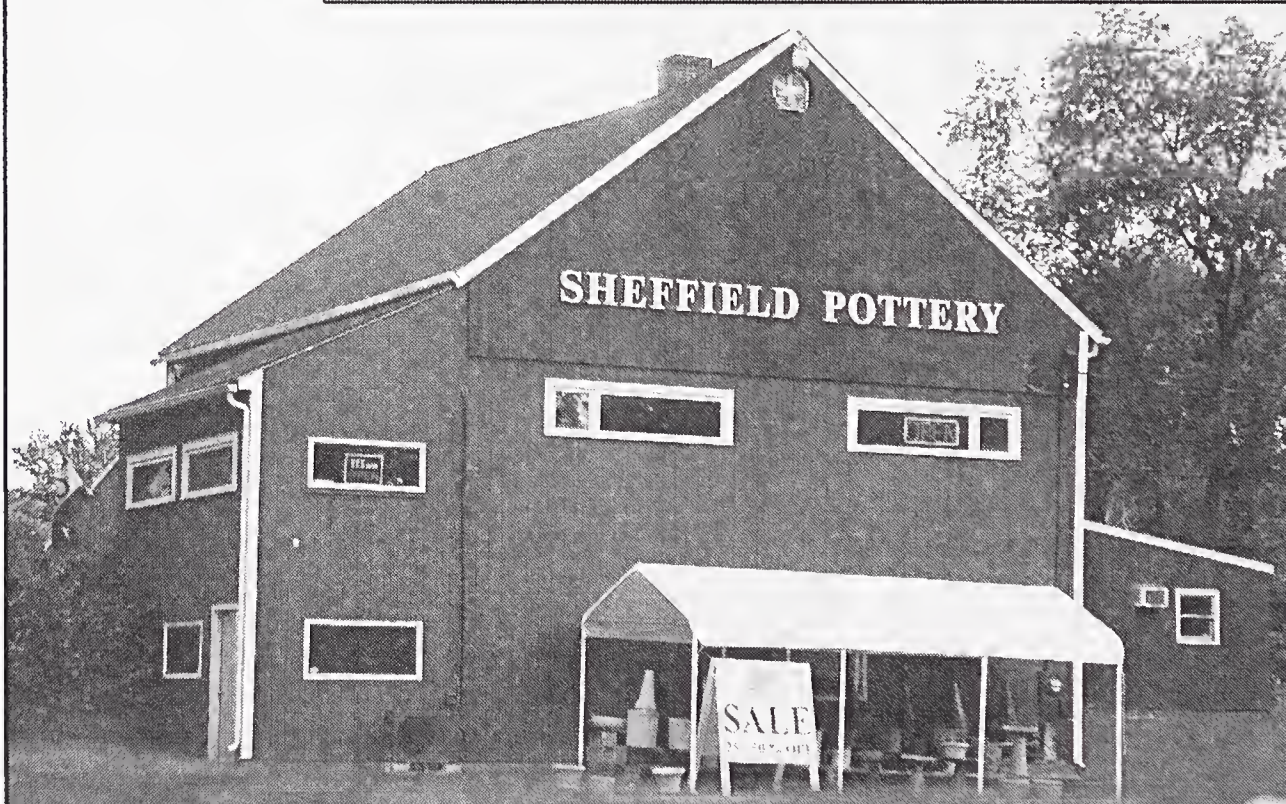
Census forms. We will be mailing out a census inquiry form to all landlords sometime in November. It is due back by mid-December. We ask for your cooperation in returning these forms as soon as possible, so our database can be updated for the Annual Street List/Census that goes out the first week in January.

DEER SEASON

Deer season for archery this year runs from Oct. 13 to Nov. 22. Shotgun season is Dec. 1 to Dec. 13, and primitive firearms season is Dec. 15 to 31.

There is no hunting on Sunday. Hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Hunting is not permitted within 500 feet of any dwelling or building except as authorized by the owner or occupant, nor within 150 feet of any state or hard-surfaced highway.

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FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

7/31—The Board of Selectmen discussed several business-related items. They discussed the option of repurchasing the City Moves property in the Sheffield Business Park. Town Administrator Joe Kellogg will contact the lawyer for City Moves to inquire as to their intentions for the property. *[According to the covenants and restrictions on the business park lots, if purchasers did not complete work on their proposed projects within two years, the Town had 90 days to repurchase at the same price. After discussion, the town extended that 90-day period to December for City Moves and expects it to begin work soon on its building.]*

The Board also discussed a possible reduction in the bond for the Kradel gravel pit. Tighe and Bond, an engineering firm, will be asked to conduct its annual inspection and make a recommendation. A site visit to Salisbury Bank was scheduled for Aug. 7 to review the bank's plan to install a drive up window.

A meeting was scheduled for Aug. 7 with the Fire Chief to discuss the new station and new truck. Another meeting will be scheduled for the Senior Center Building Committee to discuss options now that the town did not receive a Community Development block grant for the project. Administrator Kellogg will schedule a meeting with Time Warner to discuss the renewal of the cable license.

The Board discussed the need for a new Highway Dept. garage and last year's problems with road sand. The Board agreed that the town will return to using washed sand this winter.

The American Legion has requested to have a page placed on the town website. Virtual Town Hall, the builder of the website, will be contacted to determine if this is feasible and what additional costs may be involved.

Petricca Construction will begin curbing work for the Town Hall parking lot the week of Aug. 11. The final paving of the lot will be included in the summer paving bid. The board discussed the lighting, striping, traffic control and plantings for the Village Green. Kellogg noted that this summer's paving will include Rote

Hill and Hulett Hill road. Oil and stone paving will be placed on East and West roads as the budget allows.

It was noted that Sheffield in Celebration will be held this year in the Town Park due to the construction in the Village Green. Administrator Kellogg will check with the Library and Town Clerk to see if they wish to participate in a Town table.

The Board discussed the proposal from Tighe and Bond to investigate the electrical problems at Town Hall.

8/4—The Board voted to make the appointment term of all current members of the Fire Department and Emergency Services Staff indefinite. The Fire Chief will be appointed to a three-year term. The Board appointed Fire Chief Richard Boardman to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for a one-year term.

The Board voted to approve a curb cut for 1119 Home Rd., which had already been approved by the Highway Superintendent and Police Dept.

Selectman Jim Collingwood stated that the Kiwanis Club would be clearing the brush from the intersection of Berkshire School Rd. and Route 7.

Chairman Hannum noted that a meeting would be held at the Bushnell-Sage Library on Aug. 21 to discuss canoe and kayak access sites to the Housatonic River. The Housatonic Valley Association has identified three possible sites in Sheffield to include on a list of sites throughout the county as options for upgrading.

Administrator Kellogg discussed the possibility of closing Town Hall one day a week this winter to conserve on heating oil.

George Oleen was present to discuss the relocation of the WWI Monument to Barnard Park. He also inquired about identification for Town Officials. Administrator Kellogg will discuss this with Police Chief Jim McGarry.

8/7—Fire Chief Boardman provided the Board with an update on the proposed addition to the Fire Station. The Board also discussed the new tanker/pumper that will be purchased following voter approval at the May town meeting. The Board agreed that the vehicle should not be ordered until it is known when the Fire Station project will be completed. Chief Boardman noted that it will likely take 8 or 9 months to receive the tanker once it's ordered and the Fire Station addition will require at least 6 months to construct.

8/18—The Board voted unanimously to appoint Kathy Orlando to the Agricultural Commission for a three-year term and Ruth Ziegler as an alternate to that commission for a one-year term. The Board accepted the resignation of Keith Pomeroy from the Board of Health.

Board members offered comments on the draft of the Economic Development Plan. They discussed who might be a member of an Economic Development Commission and that the Industrial Development Committee could be

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Minutes, continued from page 19

disbanded if a new Economic Development Commission is created.

The Board approved a curb cut for the Lazarus property on Bow Wow Rd., previously approved by the Highway Superintendent and Police Chief.

Selectman David Macy stated that construction on the Village Green was essentially complete. David Smith, Sr., was present and stated the Kiwanis Club would like to move two conifer trees in buckets on the Village Green to the intersection of Berkshire School Rd. and Route 7. He noted that the Garden Club supported the move. The Kiwanis would also like to paint the benches on the Village Green green and white. The Board approved the request. Smith also discussed long-term parking on the Village Green and possibly limiting parking to two hours.

Administrator Kellogg announced that the town received a check for \$5,360 from the Dept. of Environmental Protection for recyclable materials. The amount was a substantial increase over previous checks and a direct result of residents doing a great job of recycling.

Kellogg noted that the Board sent a letter to Verizon regarding substandard phone service in Ashley Falls. The company offered to attend a meeting with the Board to discuss phone service for Sheffield and Ashley Falls.

George Oleen was present to discuss his responsibilities as Health Inspector. The Board agreed that Oleen was the food inspector and that all other health issues should be directed to the Board of Health.

Oleen also inquired about culverts on Foley Rd. in need of repair. Administrator Kellogg will look further into the issues with the culverts.

8/25—The Board approved a curb cut for the Humes property on Frederic Lane, previously approved by the High-

way Superintendent and Police Chief.

Administrator Kellogg reviewed applications for the position of town hall and police station custodian and recommended the appointment of Kimberly Shaw. The Board voted to do so.

The board discussed the bids received for paving various roads this summer. Administrator Kellogg noted that the prices came in much higher than esti-

PERSONNEL CHANGES ON TOWN BOARDS

Conservation Commission. The Board of Selectmen appointed Don Ward to the Commission on Oct. 20. On Oct. 21, Jeff Waingrow resigned. The board now consists of Ward, Gaetan Lachance and two Selectmen, Julie Hannum and James Collingwood. There is still one position vacant.

Zoning Board of Appeals. The state approved Sheffield's expansion of the board from three to five members. The Board of Selectmen appointed Eric Blackburn and David West, both of whom were previously on the ZBA, as alternate members, to fill those positions. They join Eric Carlson (the chair), Peter Rowntree and Bart Elsbach. The Selectmen still are looking for someone to fill the position as alternate.

Housing Action Commission. This five-person commission was approved by voters at May's town meeting. The town so far has received applications for two of the positions. Residents who are interested in housing issues, particularly affordable housing for families and single workers are encouraged to volunteer.

If you are interested in filling any of these vacant positions, contact Joe Kellogg, Sheffield Town Administrator, or Julie Hannum, chair of the Board of Selectman, at Town Hall or at sheffieldmass@bcn.net or.

mated and may result in the town not being able to pave as many roads as anticipated. It was agreed to wait until the next regular meeting to award a contract to the low bidder.

There was a brief discussion about the effectiveness of the work carried out by the Berkshire Mosquito Control District and whether it made sense for the town to pay more than \$26,000 a year to belong. Another brief discussion was held regarding the need to fill vacancies on the Conservation Commission.

9/2—Chairman Hannum reported on the meeting about improving canoe/kayak access sites to the Housatonic River. There are seven potential sites

in Sheffield. Dennis Regan of the Housatonic Valley Assoc. was present to explain the project. Neal Chamberlain showed potential site locations on a map. The Board discussed public input, the potential sites, privately owned sites and the town's commitment to maintain the sites. A meeting was scheduled for Sept. 8 for interested parties to discuss priority of the Sheffield sites.

The Board approved the appointment of Joel Weiss to the Board of Health for a three-year term. He is now the board's chair.

The Board voted to participate in the Massachusetts Municipal Association's 6th Grade Essay Contest.

Three bids were received for the summer paving: Delsignore Blacktop Paving, \$302,365.80; Lane Construction Co., \$329,485; LB Corp., \$342,273. The Board awarded the bid to Delsignore Blacktop Paving.

One bid, in the amount of \$31,440, was received for the breathing air station. The Board awarded the bid to Shipman's Fire Equipment, the lone bidder.

The District Attorney's office is holding a training session at Berkshire Community College on Sept. 25 on the open meeting and public records laws. All town

departments are invited to attend.

Selectman Macy would like to follow up on hosting an ethics seminar.

Administrator Kellogg noted that the Highway Dept. is installing a Town Hall sign on the Village Green. A Depot Square street sign will also be erected.

The Board moved into executive session to discuss real-estate negotiations

9/11—Fire Chief Boardman and Deputy Chiefs John Ullrich and Robert Beham, together with several members of the Sheffield Hose Company, were present to discuss the status of the proposed addition to the Fire Station. Chief Boardman said the plans have changed due to the poor economic climate. The

Hose Company has decided to build a smaller addition. The new plans call for just adding two bays to accommodate the new fire tanker and existing apparatus. Sufficient funds have already been raised to pay for this smaller addition. Should additional funds become available in the future, the building may be enlarged. It is anticipated that construction will begin in May, with applications being filed over the winter for the required special permit and variances.

After discussion about when to purchase the new tanker/pumper, the Board agreed that once the special permit and variances are obtained and a contract signed for the construction of the addition, the tanker could be ordered.

9/15—A public hearing was held on a Verizon pole location. Al Bessette from Verizon was present to discuss the pole (#T.5/E.49) on Foley Rd. No abutters were present. After discussion, the Board voted to approve the pole location.

Rene Wood, chair of the Economic Development Task Force, presented the Economic Development Plan to the Board. The plan includes all public comments and comments from the Board. Wood thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the Town. She noted that Berkshire Regional Planning Commission assisted financially by paying for the consultant. Chairman Hannum thanked Wood for chairing the task force. The Board will review the plan and take a formal vote at their meeting on Oct. 6. The Board voted to disband the group and

send letters of thanks to the members.

Chairman Hannum gave an update on the Housatonic River Canoe Access project. The sites in order of priority are: the Covered Bridge, Rannapo Rd. near Bartholomew's Cobble and Maple Ave. A letter is being drafted in support of these sites. Will Whitehorn from the Berkshire Record inquired on the size of the funds available for the access project. Chairman Hannum said that there is \$150,000 for five sites

in Berkshire County.

Resignations were accepted from Kimberly Shaw as town hall and police department custodian. The Board appointed Nancy Marshall to that position. Peter Traub resigned from the Council on Aging and Senior Center Building Committee, and Edward Pickert resigned from the Highway Dept. The Board appointed Louis Aragi, Jr., to a three-year term on the Agricultural Commission and Jeffrey Briggs to the Fire Dept..

Chairman Hannum announced that Gail Ullman and Rosemarie Wright have requested to be appointed to the Council on Aging. The Council currently has one vacancy. Don Ward and Jaya Jacobs have requested to be appointed to the Conservation Commission. The Commission currently has one vacancy. The appointments will be made at the Oct. 6 meeting.

The Transfer Station's paper compactor box, damaged last winter, was replaced with a new compactor box. Three bids have been received to purchase the damaged box: Eco Waste, \$500; Commercial Containers, \$500; and JTC

and Sons, Inc., \$400. Administrator Kellogg recommended accepting the quote from Eco Waste as high bidder with a written quote. The Board voted to do so.

The Board voted to participate in a National Grid program to get a free energy audit for all town buildings. If the Town implements the recommended upgrades, National Grid will pay 70 percent of the cost.

Selectman Macy stated that Sheffield in Celebration was a success and thanked the Sheffield in Celebration Committee for a great job.

Chairman Hannum congratulated Wray Gunn on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kiwanis.

Chairman Hannum discussed the old streetlights on Main Street, which have been turned off as a result of the lights being installed in the Village Green. Chief McGarry has recommended that they be removed permanently. The side opposite the Village Green is dark, however. Discussion ensued on options for more lighting on that side of the street.

Administrator Kellogg noted that the Senior Center Building Committee would meet on Sept. 17 to discuss options for a senior center.

Administrator Kellogg explained that Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is applying for a grant to prepare hazard mitigation plans—plans that will be required for a town to be eligible for grants from the federal and state offices of emergency management. Such plans identify problem areas so repairs can be made before a problem occurs. It is a local match program. The cost to Sheffield would be approximately \$1,700. The Board voted to proceed with the application.

The Board moved to enter executive session to discuss collective bargaining.

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FROM THE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES

In meetings Aug. 14 through Sept. 25, the board attended to the following business.

The board endorsed four Form A applications (approval not required for development). One was for the estate of Dana A. Bartholomew to divide a lot on the west side of Route 41 (Undermountain Rd.) into two lots. Peter Tarshis and Marjorie Cohn can divide a lot on the west side of Brewer Hill Rd. into two lots. Gregory Small and Claire Anacreon divided a lot on the westerly side of Alum Hill Rd. into two lots. Mary Chase created an acre lot from property on Lime Kiln Rd. across from the Sportsman's Club (the Sheffield Gun Club).

The board approved a special permit for the Marketplace for signs larger than what's allowed without Board approval. The signs include three secondary signs, one for each of the three separate businesses in the building on Elm Court, and one primary sign to be placed on Wheeler & Taylor's property fronting Route 7.

The board held and closed a special permit hearing on an application from Natural Habitat, a business located at 725 N. Main St. (Route 7), seeking approval for one primary and two secondary signs, with a combined total square footage of 50 square feet. Deliberations will be at a subsequent meeting.

The board held and closed a special permit hearing from Greenergy, another business on Route 7, for a sign of 29.21 square feet, about 45 percent larger than the 20 square feet allowed by right, but within the limits permissible by special

permit. Deliberations will be held later.

The board discussed the issue of outdoor storage in light of the materials being stored at Rock Solid on Route 7 and potentially at other businesses in town. It answered questions from Kathy Orlando regarding completion of a Form A application. It continued work on the board's proposed updated rules and regulations. It made plans to meet with the Sheffield Land Trust on a number of matters.

The Zoning By-law Committee met on Sept. 24 to discuss signage, which has been a source of much discussion and consternation to town boards and the building inspector, businesses and citizens. Current sign committee members are Tom Carmody, Tim Fulco, Tony Gulotta, Maggie Martin, Dan Jimmerson, Steve Seward, David Smith, Sr., Chris Tomich, David West. The goal is to present a revised sign by-law at the May 2009 Town Meeting. To accomplish this, the committee will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 7 to 8:30pm. Meetings are posted and open to the public.

In mid-October, the Town finally received approval from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office of Municipal Law regarding the Zoning By-Law warrant articles passed by voters at the May 5th town meeting.

Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7pm. Minutes and notices of special hearings are on the Town's website (www.sheffieldma.gov). All are welcome at board meetings.

—Rene Wood

CENTURY ACQUISITIONS HEARING SET FOR NOV. 13

Citizens concerned about the expansion of the Century Acquisition's business have requested a hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals to determine whether the company has been following town zoning by-laws in its present operation. The hearing was requested after the town building inspector deemed it unnecessary to issue a cease-and-desist order. The complaint focuses on expanded hours of operation and storage for which the company does not have a special permit.

The hearing is set for Thurs., Nov. 13 at 7pm at Town Hall.

PARKING NEWS FROM TOWN HALL

Winter parking rules. To help the Highway Dept. remove snow, Sheffield prohibits overnight parking on town streets and roads between Nov. 1 and April 1. The ban on parking for more than one hour is in effect between 1 and 6am or at other times if streets are snow covered. The penalty is a \$35 fine, with the vehicle being removed at the owner's expense.

Election Day parking. Voters going to the polls at Town Hall on Nov. 4 will see the new landscaping and paving in the Town Hall parking lot. But the parking spaces may not have been delineated with paint in time for Election Day. Pay attention to the new layout and be extra careful as you enter and leave the lot, and make sure not to park in such a way as to block another vehicle.

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SHEFFIELD'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN MOVES FORWARD

On Sept. 15, the Economic Development Task Force presented the Economic Development Plan to the Board of Selectmen. The plan, which the task force has been working on with community input since late February, was adopted by the Selectmen at their meeting on Oct. 20. The Board discussed forming an Economic Development Committee and asked for letters of interest from those interested in being involved.

A complement to the town's Master Plan, the economic development plan is a strategic guide for the Board of Selectmen, town boards and the community to use in decision-making, intended to further economic stability while following the principles of smart growth. It updates a plan developed in 1994.

More than 100 Sheffield businesses contributed to the plan through a survey. The responses were particularly helpful in assessing the present business climate in Sheffield and shaping recommended economic development strategies. The survey shows that Sheffield, while still strong in agriculture, is also a community of increasingly diverse businesses and opportunities. Business owners rated quality of life as a significant factor in choosing the town for their location.

The plan recommends a combination of infrastructure improvements and marketing approaches to improve the business climate in Sheffield. Infrastructure improvements include promoting and developing business-ready sites, improving utilities and communications, cataloging available buildings and building lots and re-zoning. Marketing approaches recognize that Sheffield's uniqueness needs to be defined as a "brand" within the larger Berkshire brand and marketed through a campaign that highlights Sheffield's quality of life, support of business and business opportunities.

With the two approaches in mind, the task force defined four economic development strategies with action steps:

STRATEGY I: Prepare for action. Be ready to make use of all available economic development resources. Action steps: Establish leadership to implement the economic development plan; cultivate essential linkages to accomplish strategies.

STRATEGY II: Reach out. Set the agenda for marketing Sheffield. Attract interest, ideas, investment and people. Action steps: Define the "Sheffield" brand. Develop internal (Sheffield) marketing campaign. Develop external marketing campaign. Attract interest, ideas, investment and people.

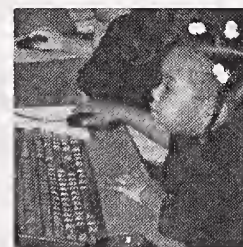
STRATEGY III: Be site ready. Be business friendly. Action steps: Identify/promote specific business-ready sites. Evaluate and implement business-friendly zoning. Identify and develop essential business infrastructure. Identify and evaluate incentive programs for job retention and growth.

STRATEGY IV: identify, develop and promote business clusters. Action steps: Identify existing and emerging business clusters. Develop and promote identified business clusters.

The Economic Development Plan is both a call for community action and a way to take specific steps to address many of the goals stated in the town's Master Plan. With implementation of these measures, Sheffield will strengthen its economy and provide increased economic opportunity for businesses and individuals. It's an effort that will require the engagement of the entire community.

Task force members who developed the plan were: Julie Hannum, Chair, Board of Selectmen; Joe Kellogg, Town Administrator; Brian Killeen, executive director, Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce; Catherine Miller, retired businesswoman and current board member on many local boards; Jason Ostrander, economic development specialist for U.S. Congressman John Olver; Kevin Schmitz, co-owner of The Marketplace; Rich Vinette, consultant to the task force; and Rene Wood, retired businesswoman and former chair of the Planning Board. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission secured and administered funding for this work.

—Rene Wood



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CLARINETS KEY TO NEW BUSINESS

The current gloomy economic situation might turn out to be a boon to the American entrepreneurial spirit. As Thomas W. Malone, a professor at the Sloan School of Management at MIT, pointed out in *The Future of Work*, many use troubled times to change careers and develop businesses that not only help them make a living but achieve "noneconomic goals like freedom, personal satisfaction and fulfillment."

Beverly and Clyde Haberman have recently started a new business that they think will give them just that. The Habermans, who live on Salisbury Rd., have started a business called FrannyToo! through which they buy, repair and sell clarinets and clarinet-related products on eBay and locally. (Beverly's middle name is Fran.)

Beverly, who is originally from the Bronx, NY, studied music at Music and Art High School and City College and became a music teacher. She and Clyde met in Madison, WI, where she continued teaching music and also worked as a jazz pianist. She formed her own jazz group and played at weddings and in small clubs. In 1994, she and Clyde moved to Sheffield to teach classes in personal growth at the Option Institute.

Two years ago, she read a book that helped her decide to make yet another life change—Thomas Friedman's *The World is Flat*, which describes the leveling of the economic playing field in the world, allowing someone in India to create something that is needed in Silicon Valley. Wondering what she, in Sheffield, could market that someone in Denver might want, she researched selling on eBay and tried selling some things she owned, including two flutes. She and Clyde saw that eBay was an excellent marketplace for selling instruments.

Clyde, who is originally from Wisconsin, attended the University of Wisconsin and also taught music there. He, too, performed and had a quartet in which he played the clarinet, saxophone and flute. He also had learned to repair musical instruments, and it was this ability that enabled their new business to move forward. They decided to focus on clarinets.

Using eBay, the Habermans search the world for clarinets that seem undervalued or need repair. Clyde plays each instrument to evaluate it and makes repairs as needed. Some only need to have corks and pads replaced, others need major repair. Beverly photographs the clarinet and writes the copy for its resale, through eBay or Amazon or in local papers. A newly repaired,



Beverly and Clyde Haberman have started a business buying, selling and repairing clarinets.

reliable clarinet sells for \$130 to \$160, a better instrument for \$160 to \$225 or much more. The Habermans guarantee satisfaction and offer a full refund for every clarinet. FrannyToo! has consistently high ratings as a seller on eBay.

They also sell the repaired clarinets locally, from their home. Clyde says it's exciting to see a person come to the house and try 10 or 12 clarinets to find the one whose sound they like best. When a student just starting lessons comes to choose an instrument, Clyde will demonstrate them and help the student make a decision. The Habermans are trying to increase their local sales by advertising in the Shoppers' Guide and contacting local schools.

Clyde and Beverly also sell clarinet-related items: clarinet care kits, clarinet key chains and refrigerator magnets, a book called *Clarinet Crosswords: Puzzles for the Music Enthusiast*, which they created and published, a book of Schumann's piano music that Clyde has transcribed for single-note instruments such as the clarinet. All of these—and clarinet playing tips—are available on their website, www.frannytoo.com. They hope also to have clarinets available through their website by the new year. (They can also be reached at 229-0032.)

Clyde still works full time at the Option Institute but Beverly now works there part-time so she can develop this new venture. They hope their new business will become their full-time focus when they retire from the Option Institute.

—Judith Schumer

SHEFFIELD TREE PROJECT

The Sheffield Tree Project will hold its annual Community Work Day on Sat., Nov. 8, rain or shine. Board members will lead volunteers in planting several trees and pruning and mulching trees that the group has already planted throughout the community. Families are welcome. Please bring gloves and a shovel, and dress appropriately for the weather. Meet at 9:30am at the Sheffield Town Hall parking area.

For more information, visit the group's website at www.SheffieldTreeProject.org or call Tom Ingersoll at 413-822-1602.

SAFETY ITEMS FROM THE POLICE DEPT.

The Sheffield Police Dept. has free bike helmets for children and adults and free gun locks. Stop by to pick one up. Best time: 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday (but officers may be out on calls) or call 229-8522 to arrange a time.

KIWANIS NEWS

New officers. Congratulations and best wishes to the Sheffield Kiwanis Club's new officers. Their installation dinner took place Oct. 4 at the Egremont Country Club. The new president is Patricia Hardisty; vice-president, Dorothy Kelley; president-elect, Dave Smith, Jr.; secretary, Joseph Todd; and treasurer, Dick Goodwin. Also installed as new members of the board of directors were Jim Collingwood, Anita Diller, Cathy Finkle, John Gilligan, Dennis Hankey, JoAnn Shmulsky and David Smith, Sr., and Dave Johnson (IPP). Fred Finkle is the alternate. The club also presented two major awards: the Lifetime Achievement Award to Wray Gunn and Kiwanian of the Year to Dave Smith, Sr.

Regional convention. The New England convention took place on the weekend of August 23 at the Sheraton Ferncroft Hotel and Resort in Danvers, MA. There were eight attendees from the Sheffield club, which was recognized as a Distinguished Club for the 2006-2007 year. A big congratulations to past president Cathy Finkle and secretary Joe Todd. Other honors included ribbons in

public relations, bulletin and young children priority one. Also, Phyllis Pickert announced that the Sheffield Kiwanis reached its goal of \$1,000 for Camp Sunshine. The check was presented at the New England District Convention.

End of summer events. On Aug. 24 the Princess Kiwi, led by Jim and Theresa Collingwood and gang, sold food and drinks at Searles School for the Fairview Hospital "Family Planning Day."

Sheffield in Celebration took place Sept. 6 at the Sheffield Town Park. The event was enjoyed by all, despite the rain. Several dignitaries, including Anair and Northeast District Governor John Maihos, were on hand. State Representative "Smitty" Pignatelli and State Senator Ben Downing presented the honored guest, Wray Gunn, with proclamations.

Raffle winner. Dave Smith, Jr., arranged for the club to sell tickets for a \$500 gas card to raise money for the scholarship fund. Aiden Gilligan was the winner.

Fall events and awards. The first Kiwanis CAN Walk to benefit the local food pantry took place on Oct. 26. The 3½ mile walk left from Old Parish Church.

The club sent a check for \$100 to the

4-H Club instead of the 4-Hers gleaning deposit bottles and cans at the transfer station. Kiwanis members were concerned that such sorting could be dangerous.

The Annual Sheffield Kiwanis Club Radiothon at WSBS was October 31. Dick Goodwin and Dave Smith, Jr., were the hosts and were joined by many guests.

Kiwanis International has instituted Legion of Merit awards for every five years of membership. Five-year winners are Chrissie Smith, Dave Smith, Sr., and Debbie Wright. Ten-year winners are Theresa Collingwood, Cathy and Fred Finkle, Dennis Hankey, Patricia Hardisty, Marge Kirchner and Dave Lewis. Honored for 15 years are Jim Collingwood, Dave Johnson, Barbara and Paul Mulholland and Paul O'Brien.

Outgoing president Dave Johnson gave "One Can Make a Difference" pins to several members for projects they have headed: Phyllis Pickert, Dave Smith Jr., the Collingwoods, Cathy Finkle, Dorothy Kelley, Dick Goodwin, Denise Rueger, Gretta Willig, Anita Diller, Patty Hardisty, Steve Shmulsky, Dave Smith Sr., Jim Kern and Joe Todd.

—Gretta Willig

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

Festival for the Holidays. Weekends, Nov. 8-Dec.21, Sat., 10-2pm and Sun., 11-3 pm, with occasional extended hours, at the Old Stone Store. Shop for everyone on your list at the Historical Society's holiday bazaar. You'll find an array of handmade goods, including miniature trees, ornaments, handmade crafts by local artisans, jewelry, holiday treats, gifts and raffles. Upstairs is a holiday tag sale and Old Stone Store markdowns. The Festival will have extended hours on Fri., Nov. 28—11-4pm.

Book Talk. John Toffey, author of *John Toffey's War*. Fri., Nov.14, 7:30pm. In observance of Veteran's Day, Toffey will discuss his memoir of the WWII Allied invasion of Italy. Toffey, one of four generations of Toffeys who fought in the military, was 13 years old when his father was killed in the

hill town of Palestrina, one day before the Allies marched into Rome. Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Toffey had commanded a combat battalion longer than any other officer in the Mediterranean theater. In 1996, when his father's letters were discovered, John Toffey began to piece together the story his father never got to tell. The program will be presented in conjunction with Bushnell-Sage Library and will take place at Dewey Memorial Hall.

Dan Raymond House Holiday Social. Sun., Dec. 13, 3-5 pm. Come gather round the keeping room fireside at the Dan Raymond House and enjoy some holiday cheer in the spirit of yesteryear at the Society's holiday party. Join friends new and old. Music, merriment and more.



The annual Sheffield Spirit Walk was held on Sept. 19 in Barnard Cemetery on Berkshire School Rd. Ethan Chamberlain of Sheffield played Daniel Bush, an ancestor of President George W. Bush.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN SHEFFIELD, August-October 2008

Date	Owner	Location	Description	Fee	Est. value
8/7	Robert Ullrich	50 Hewins St.	Install photovoltaic panels	\$50	\$26,771
8/8	Neal Borovitz	399 Hewins St.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$9,500
8/8	Ed Delmolino	1106 Sheffield-Egremont Rd.	Remove & replace roof finishes	\$25	\$8,000
8/8	Nancy Shmulsky	45 Woodedge Lane	196 sq. ft. accessory building	\$50	\$4,500
8/11	Jim Cavanaugh	719 North Main St.	Interior construction of existing structure	\$1,338	\$202,400
8/11	Bob & Sue MacVeety	165 Kelsey Rd.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$6,000
8/11	Winthrop Barrett	89 Ashley Falls Rd.	2944 sq. ft. accessory building.	\$353.28	\$180,000
8/11	Dick Coon Construction/Humes	91 Fredrick Lane	Single family modular dwelling	\$876.50	\$131,200
8/11	Nancy Kahn	1420 Boardman St.	Remove and replace roof finish	\$25	\$5,500
8/12	Bob Brigham	168 Main St.	Install oil burner flue liner	\$50	\$1,800
8/14	Bart Elsbach	1554 Boardman St.	Accessory building	\$230.40	\$25,000
8/18	Michael Fitting	84 Cook Rd.	Kitchen alteration	\$50	\$8,000
8/18	Tim Whittaker	1161 Home Rd.	Install solid fuel appliance	\$25	\$3,800
8/19	Lynne Posner	299 Water Farm Rd.	Remove and replace roof finish	\$25	\$23,000
8/21	Deborah Reich	1690 Boardman St.	Greenhouse addition	\$66	\$43,000
8/22	Douglas MacDonald	180 Soda Spring Creek Rd.	Accessory building addition & deck repairs	\$50	\$4,000
8/22	Todd Wilkinson	1500 Boardman St.	Install outdoor solid fuel appliance	\$25	\$7,000
8/25	Peter Rawson	1095 Ashley Falls Rd.	Install solid fuel appliance	\$25	\$3,300
8/26	Kerry Douglas	805 Barnum St.	Install photovoltaic panels	\$50	\$18,575
8/26	Michael Citrin	1135 Ashley Falls Rd.	Laundry room and entry portico	\$50	\$17,000
9/2	George Lazarus	476 Giberson Rd.	Two-story addition with detached garage	\$913.79	\$300,000
9/2	Robert Morin	110 Clayton Rd.	Accessory garage and attached deck	\$94.12	\$18,000
9/4	Albin S. Rothermel	635 North Main St.	Add door to access basement and exterior	\$50	\$800
9/5	Natale Marasco	174 Valley View Rd., Ashley Falls	Accessory barn	\$372.48	\$85,000
9/5	Todd Mack	28 South Main St.	Sign permit	\$25	NA
9/05	Robert & Anna James	51 Cobble Lane	Fireplace chimney replacement	\$50	\$5,000
9/05	Wayne Joseph	129 Berkshire School Rd.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$4,000
9/8	Marilyn Baseman	179 South Main St.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$3,000
9/9	Sandra Preston	575 Sheffield Plain Rd.	Install solid fuel appliance	\$25	\$3,200
9/9	Boyd Hutchison	535 Home Rd.	Install solid fuel outdoor appliance	\$25	\$15,000
9/15	Thomas & Anne Buckley	49 Root Lane	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$3,000
9/15	Jeffrey Wheeler	195 West Rd.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$2,375
9/15	James Toner	25 Thornbush Way	Install solid fuel burning appliance	\$25	\$3,000
9/15	Jack Bode	726 County Rd.	Upgrade residential insulation and air sealing	\$50	NA
9/16	June Chapman	551 Alum Hill Rd.	Addition	\$210	\$80,000

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE AND ASHLEY HOUSE EVENTS

Remember, hiking at the Cobble is free for Sheffield residents!

Moonlight Hike

Forests and fields look different in the moonlight. Come explore the sights and sounds of the night on this guided walk Sat., Nov. 8, 6-8pm. Members/nonmembers: Adult \$5; family \$10. Please pre-register.

Northwest Connecticut Waterfowl Census

Travel with experienced birders to several lakes in northwestern Connecticut to learn about our migratory waterfowl. Dress warmly. Sat., Nov. 15, 9am-2pm. Free. Please pre-register.

Owl Prowl

Whooo's out there? Learn about owls' amazing ability to hunt swiftly, accurately and silently in the dead of night. We'll listen to owl calls and try to draw them in. Sat., Nov. 29, and Fri., Dec. 12, 7-9pm. Members: individual \$4; family \$12. Nonmembers: individual \$6; family \$15. Please pre-register.

Hot Chocolate Saturdays

Chill out, then warm up. Climb Hurlburt's Hill, then slide, sled, ski, or trek back to the warmth of our Visitors' Center and enjoy

complimentary coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Saturdays, Dec. through Mar., 11am-4pm. Members: free. Nonmembers: free with admission.

Hike with Santa

Santa and your children will enjoy a half-mile hike, learning about nature and the wonders of winter. He'll also hand out small, nature-related presents! Sat., Dec. 20, 10am-noon. Children, \$10 (includes price of present). Members/nonmembers: adults free. Please pre-register.

Winter Walk Series: Tracks & Signs

Come on outside to enjoy winter on Sat., Jan 17, 1-2:30pm! Explore for tracks and signs. Join us on future weekends for winter birding, winter photography, and more. Check our website for updates. Members: \$5. Nonmembers: \$8. One child free per adult. Please pre-register.

March Speaker Series

Join us for a late-winter series of illustrated talks sharing photography, stories, art and books inspired by places like Bartholomew's Cobble, Monument Mountain, Naumkeag, Mountain Meadow and more. To be held at Bartholomew's Cobble and local libraries. Check our website for updates. Free; donations welcome.

Bartholomew's Cobble, a 329-acre property of The Trustees of Reservations with five miles of trails, is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to

sunset. The Visitor's Center is open 9am-4:30pm (closed Sundays and Mondays, Dec. to March). For more information, call 229-8600 or check the website at www.thetrustees.org.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN SHEFFIELD, August-October 2008

Date	Owner	Location	Description	Fee	Est. value
9/18	Robert Twing	1616 Hewins St.	Accessory structure	\$25	\$312
9/18	Hillary Russell	98 Berkshire School Rd.	Install solid fuel burning appliance	\$25	\$4,000
9/19	Dave Eictstedt	718 Clayton Rd.	Attached screen porch	\$60	\$7,500
9/19	Joe & Carol Reich	1601 Boardman St.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$29,000
9/19	Robert Mercurio	1160 Bow Wow Rd.	174 sq. ft. screen porch, 137 sq. ft. addition, alteration	\$104.50	\$170,000
9/22	Joe Wilkinson III	622 Boardman St.	Add roof structure to existing dwelling	\$140	\$15,000
9/23	Martin Mitsoff	960 S. Undermountain Rd.	Windows on house and barn, siding on barn	\$100	\$70,000
9/25	Sandra Preston	474 County Rd.	Entry portico roof addition	\$50	\$2,500
9/25	Sari Hoy	60 Main St.	Install solid fuel outdoor appliance	\$25	\$12,500
9/26	Berkshire Products	884 Ashley Falls Rd.	Green house addition	\$238	\$8,000
9/30	Thomas Torrico	520 Sheffield Plain Rd.	Solar heat collector and pellet stove installation	\$50	\$4,500
9/30	Martin Mitsoff	960 S. Undermountain Rd.	Install 3 solid fuel burning appliances	\$25	\$9,000
9/30	Charles Greenman	755 Sheffield-Egremont Rd.	Additions and alterations	\$689.20	\$445,000
10/2	Ben Munisteri	403 S. Undermountain Rd.	Floor finishes, windows, siding repair	\$50	\$14,400
10/2	Marty & Susan Fischer	50 East Rd.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$4,000
10/2	BensDotter's Pet	670 North Main St.	Primary and accessory sign	\$25	NA
10/2	Tasha Polizzi	1815 North Main St.	Temporary tent	\$25	NA
10/6	Light Tower	55 Sheffield-Egremont Rd.	Telecommunication shelter and antennas	\$993.50	\$150,000
10/7	Brian J. Hyatt	235 Berkshire School Rd.	Install solid fuel burning appliance	\$25	\$3,735
10/7	Custom Extrusions	34 Home Rd.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$21,400
10/07	Four Corners LLC	Lot 4, Sheffield Business Park	2000 sq. ft. office building	\$370	\$70,000
10/07	Walter Scott	804 S. Undermountain Rd.	Reroof garage, replace doors	\$75	\$9,000
10/07	Stephen Hyer	25 Shunpike Rd.	Install solid fuel burning appliance	\$25	\$1,800
10/9	Louis Aragi	1474 Hewins St.	Slurry storage tank	\$3,268.50	\$500,000
10/10	SBRSD	491 Berkshire School Rd.	Stage extension removal	\$25	NA
10/14	Michael Citrin	1135 Ashley Falls Rd.	Kitchen alteration	\$50	\$8,000
10/14	Philip Ghi	234 E. Main St.	Install solid fuel burning appliance	\$25	\$4,000
10/14	John J. Ullrich	487 Sheffield Plain Rd.	Roof finishes and utility building	\$75	\$9,000
10/14	Kerry Douglas	795 Barnum St.	Insulation upgrade	\$50	\$2,500
10/17	Wilkinson General Contracting	999 S. Undermountain Rd.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$10,000
10/17	Judith Nelson	131 Rote Hill Rd.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$8,000
10/17	Walter D Hewins III	206 Rote Hill Rd.	Accessory barn	\$187.20	\$39,000
10/17	Richard LeGeyt	291 LeGeyt Rd.	Remove and replace roof finishes	\$25	\$8,600
10/17	Allen H Pickert	65 Davis Lane	Replace bay window and entry door	\$50	\$300



Land Trust Property Walk. On Oct. 24, Sheffield Land Trust hosted its annual walk on conserved land. Anna James, of HomeLand Design, and owner Twigg Myers led the walk on the Myers Conservation Restriction off Berkshire School Rd.

BEETLE ALERT FROM TNC

The Asian long-horned beetle, a tree-killing pest, has arrived in Worcester, MA. It's the third known infestation in the US. The Nature Conservancy is reminding everyone to be on the watch for the pest. Last summer, Chicago residents helped eradicate the beetle there, and officials are hopeful that we can do the same thing here.

The beetle prefers maples, birches, elms, chestnuts and willows, but sycamores, ashes and poplars are also affected. Look for the beetles themselves, egg masses, exit holes and sawdust piles. (See www.massnrc.org/pests for photos and to report sightings online. You can also report by phone at 866-702-9938).

Right now, the only effective way to stop the spread of this pest is to cut down and burn infested trees. So spread the word. Make sure your friends and neighbors know what to look for.

FIRE LOG—Rick Boardman, Chief

June

- 11 Alarm at Sheffield Historical Society. Alarm time: 5:15am. In service: 5:40am.
- 11 Alarm at Sheffield Historical Society. Alarm time: 10:55pm. In service: 11:10pm.
- 18 Stand by for Great Barrington Fire Dept. Alarm time: 5:07pm. In service: 5:23pm.
- 24 False alarm at Option Institute. Alarm time: 1:05am. In service: 1:40am.
- 27 Stand by for Great Barrington Fire Dept. Alarm time: 2:30pm. In service: 3:47pm.
- 29 Alarm at Mt. Everett Regional High School. Alarm time: 9:20am. In service: 9:40am.

August

- 7 Tree on fire during storm, Curtiss Road/Rt. 41. Alarm time: 9:55pm. In service: 11:33pm.
- 14 Alarm at Mount Everett Regional High School due to faulty smoke detector.

- 23 False alarm at Berkshire School. Alarm time: 6:47pm. In service: 7:22pm.
- 24 Alarm at PJ's due to burnt food. Alarm time: 6:11am. In service: 6:24am.
- 26 Alarm at Mount Everett Regional High School. Alarm time: 1:33pm. In service: 2:56pm.
- 31 Alarm at Caldwell house, 616 Sheffield Plain. Alarm time: 9:56am. In service: 10:20am.

September

- 6 Auto accident at Miller Ave. Alarm time: 12:30pm. In service: 1:23pm.
- 7 False alarm at Sheffield Plastics. Alarm time: 5:45am. In service: 5:53am.
- 9 Pole fire at 188 West Stahl Rd. Alarm time: 9:54am. In service: 10:12am.
- 9 Alarm at 476 Giberson Rd. Alarm time: 10:12am. In service: 10:25am.

- 13 CO detector activated at 1092 County Rd. Alarm time: 9:15pm. In service: 9:40pm.
- 21 Search for hiker at Race Brook and Rt. 41. Alarm time: 2:51pm. In service: 5:52pm.
- 23 Dumpster fire, 1690 Boardman St. Alarm time: 6:34am. In service: 7:19am.
- 26 Truck accident, Rt. 7 and Clayton Rd. Alarm time: 5:37pm. In service: 6:42pm.

October

- 1 Truck and trailer fire, 775 West Rd. Alarm time: 8:22am. In service: 9:10am.
- 2 Wire down on car, Rt. 7. Alarm time: 3:48pm. In service: 4:40pm.
- 8 Structure fire, 1504 Silver St. Alarm time: 4:43am. In service: 9:51am.
- 13 High voltage wire broken, 779 North Main St. Alarm time: 12:09pm. In service: 12:51pm.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

June

- 12 Daniel P. & David D. Macy to Toby I. Ganz, property at 322 Bow Wow Rd., \$579,000
- 13 Jane M. Hiza to Melissa A. Joyce, property at 1720 Home Rd., \$250,000
- 13 Rae Bradbury-McGonagle to Robert R. & Dawn N. Posey, property at 226 Silver St., \$297,500
- 16 Rodney Ripps & Nancy Finton to Andrew C. Belcher, property at 1119 Ashley Falls Rd., \$222,500

July

- 1 Cheryl Kane (estate of) to Arnold C. Jr. & Diana L. Agar, property at 203 Canaan Rd., \$175,000
- 25 Sheffield Land Trust to Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Dept. of Agricultural Resources, an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, property located at Bow Wow Rd., \$378,000
- 25 Bruce M. Howden to Sheffield Land Trust, an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, property at Rannapo Rd., \$484,850
- 25 Bruce M. Howden to Sheffield Land Trust, an Agricultural Preserva-

- tion Restriction, property at Rannapo Rd., \$242,900
- 25 Bruce M. Howden to Sheffield Land Trust, an Agricultural Preservation Restriction, property at Rannapo Rd., \$597,250
- 25 Donald R. Roeder to Sharon L. Simmons & Carolyn Jacoby, property at 680 Clayton Rd., \$227,500

August

- 1 Keith & Jaime Pomeroy to Michael G. & Melinda G. Fitting, property at 84 Cook Rd., \$420,000
- 1 Deborah L. Browning to Benedict W. Munisteri, property at 403 South Undermountain Rd., \$370,000
- 13 Anthony J. & Michelle A. Gulotta to Matthew J. & Sarah M. Humes, property at 91 Frederic Lane, \$1
- 29 Jason T. & Jennifer M. Smith to Ronald J. & Virginia L. Bubak, property at 7 Woodedge Lane, \$225,000

September

- 15 Elizabeth Yoakum to William P. Carroll & Susan A. Biller, property at 148 Park Lane, \$409,000

November

- 1 Local Authors Day at Library
- 1 Dewey Hall concert (p. 15)
- 2 Daylight savings ends
- 4 ELECTION DAY
- 7 Caribbean night at Marketplace (p. 3)
- 8 Tree Project work day (p.26)
- 9 Good Samaritan benefit (p. 15)
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY
- 14 John Toffey book talk (p. 28)
- 14 Harvest Dinner at Marketplace (p. 3)
- 27 THANKSGIVING
- 28 Gould Farm artisan sale (also Nov. 29; p. 15)

December

- 6 Ashley Falls tree lighting (p. 3)
- 7 Sheffield tree lighting (p. 3)
- 7 Dewey Hall concert (p. 15)
- 13 Historical Society holiday social (p. 28)
- 22 HANUKKAH BEGINS
- 15 **Sheffield Times deadline for events and ads**
- 25 CHRISTMAS
- 26 KWANZAA BEGINS

January

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

See also the listings for Sheffield Kiwanis (p. 27),
Historical Society (p.28) and Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 29)

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number – i.e. “1st, “3rd” indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.

Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd
- Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays
- Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st
- Building Inspector 7am-12 Noon

Tuesdays:

- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, Tues. 7am-12noon
- Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4th
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm

Wednesdays:

- Senior Center Knitting Group, 1pm

Thursdays:

- Senior Center physical fitness, 9am
- Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30am
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, Thurs. 3pm-6pm
- * Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd
- * Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3rd
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Friday:

- Building Inspector 7am-10am

Saturdays:

- Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4th

Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

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Sheffield in Celebration!

Local musicians who entertained included the Joint Chiefs, far left, at Dewey Hall as part of its ongoing music series, and Bruce Mandell, in the Pavilion at the Fair. For more photos, see page 16.

THANK YOU TO RECENT CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SHEFFIELD TIMES!

Grace W. Arzt
Anne Barrett
Malcolm & Barbara Bayliss
Norman & Elizabeth Beck
Julie & Jeffrey Blake
Carolann & Richard Boardman
Herbert & Marjorie Cary
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Robert & Nancy Smith
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Robert & Rebecca Thomas
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Loet & Edith Velmans
Rene Wood

We appreciate our community's support and generosity. If we missed anyone, we'll catch you in the next issue!

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for
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